

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2022
8:30am

Present: Rosemary Cunningham, Heidi Boyd, Marvene O'Rourke, John Dropick, Jay Sigler, Nancy Ignacio, Janice Belisle; Administrator Lyndsay Famariss.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:33 am.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary asked for the Board's approval of the minutes from February 18, 2022. Nancy Ignacio made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Marvene O'Rourke seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Budget: Lyndsay reported that there is nothing of particular note in the budget, though we have now overspent in our telephone line item. This difference will be made up in other areas of the budget without a problem, and Lyndsay has requested an increased amount to cover this expense in the FY23 budget.

Administrator's report: Lyndsay introduced the new outreach support worker, Gabrielle Nash. She is a first year social work student at Boston College. She'll be working remotely until her classes end in early May. Lyndsay shared that we interviewed three other candidates who were all strong candidates, so we had a very difficult decision to make. Lyndsay expressed her hope that the three other qualified candidates will get involved in some way in the ECOA, as they all bring a lot of wonderful skillsets to the table.

Lyndsay updated the board on the COA van. She shared that we are awaiting a response from the VTA on when Meris, Lyndsay and our volunteer driver Bruce DiRuggeiro can be trained so that we may begin using the van. The goal is that the van will have a soft launch the first week in April, and the hope is that we can attract additional drivers. Tisbury COA will also be starting a Shopping Shuttle in collaboration with the MV Center for Living.

Lyndsay reported that Stephen Miller's widow Christina called to let us know that his service will be held on Saturday, April 9 at 11am.

Lyndsay shared her conversation with James Hagerty, Town Administrator, and he relayed to her that he hasn't gotten any calls from residents either complaining or praising our mask mandate. He felt that we should make a decision that supports our population, and that he would back up whatever decision the board makes.

Rosemary Cunningham offered the board two possible options: we dispense with mandatory mask mandate or we keep a mask mandate and the board will review at each board meeting. The board members shared their opinions about the mandate, and the board came to the decision to keep the mandate and review it in two weeks via an email check-in.

Lyndsay reported via James Hagerty that the state has extended the deadline until July 15 for committees and boards to meet via Zoom. Rosemary Cunningham proposed that

the board meet via Zoom through its last meeting in June, and then resume in-person meetings in September. The board agreed, with all in favor of this plan.

Lyndsay thanked John Dropick, his wife, Dorothy, and their four volunteers for their valuable work providing tax prep assistance to approximately two dozen Edgartown residents.

Five Year Committee Report:

Marvene O'Rourke reiterated that this committee formed as a result of discussions at the January board meeting. Marvene reviewed the membership of the committee (Marvene O'Rourke, Nancy Ignacio, Janice Belisle, Dianne Durawa, Sarah Henderson, Carolyn O'Daly and Lyndsay Famariss – ex-officio). The committee first met on Feb 23, and Marvene shared historical information from the first meeting that she thought the board members would find interesting. Marvene explained that the committee plans to examine three objectives: to define the issues (incl. repair/maintenance needs of the ECOA building, the need for greater accessibility of the building, the ability to expand programming as needed with the growing older adult population and some type of an overall plan) facing the ECOA in the next five to ten years, the inevitable environmental factors that will impact the building, and how these items can be addressed both for the longevity of the ECOA and in the most responsible manner for taxpayers. She reported that the goal of this committee is to develop a plan and/or strategy that can be presented to the town to try to address these issues. She emphasized that there is no agenda or prescribed outcome of this committee, but rather the hope that people who are invested in the ECOA and the town will work together to move forward with a plan. The next meeting of this committee will take place on March 30th.

Rosemary commented that she has spoken with Janice Belisle and Jay Sigler, and that they have concluded that the board needs to extend a more formal invitation to the Friends of the ECOA organization to meet and get them involved in the ongoing discussions. Marvene added that she and Janice spoke of inviting Barbara Phillips, a co-president of the Friends, to be on the committee. Janice shared that Barbara has expressed in the past that she would like to be a part of discussions of the future challenges and needs of the ECOA.

The board discussed the committee and expressed that they will welcome progress updates as they become available.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris Keating reported that the exterior benches are on their way, and they will go on the Daggett St side of the building and in the view of the Edgartown lighthouse. She shared that Eben Armer and his colleague Nick Griggs will be providing a day of labor to install the benches. Meris stated that ECOA participants have consistently asked for outdoor seating, and so it makes this addition even more exciting to know how pleased people will be to use them as soon as they are set up.

Meris shared that there is a new play reading group that has begun, and that it's a popular activity. She reported that this group will likely go on hiatus for the summer, but she hopes that it will become a regular program at the Anchors. Meris passed along that the upcoming bus trip to Boston appears to be in danger of cancelation due to low

numbers of participants. She reported that she is looking into bus companies that will transport fewer participants for future, smaller trips.

Meris shared that the Friends of the ECOA have recently paid for a membership for the Institutional Pass program at the Museum of Fine Arts which provides 70 coupons for people to attend for \$10 admission to special exhibits. She asked that members spread the word about this new opportunity.

In a new partnership, Meris reported that the ECOA has partnered with Rizwan Malik of the Edgartown Library to provide more extensive tech help. He will be offering this assistance once a month at the Anchors.

Meris connected with Lt. Chris Dolby of the Edgartown Police Dept. about volunteering as a driver in our van program. He will be joined by volunteer Bruce DiRuggeiro in offering regular rides to some of our more vulnerable Edgartown residents. Lt. Dolby also said that he is happy to help get the Coffee with a Cop program restarted with Sargent Will Bishop on a day when we serve lunch.

Meris shared that she is looking into getting a new grief support group started at the ECOA. She has talked to Hospice of MV, and they are enthusiastic about collaborating with the ECOA on this effort.

Outreach Report:

Victoria is out today, so Lyndsay read her report. Victoria shared stories about outreach clients in need of medical equipment and the ECOA's ability to connect them to people needing to pass on their equipment. She also reported that she helped a woman in need of medical care after contracting Covid, though the woman didn't have a primary care doctor assigned to her at MVH. Victoria reported that she has helped another gentleman who is facing a loss of housing to apply for an accessible apartment at island Elderly Housing. His accessibility needs will place him on a much shorter list than the regular list, which is over 160 candidates long.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice Belisle reported that the Friends have partially paid for one of the exterior benches, and that she is looking forward to having them installed so that people can begin enjoying them. Janice reiterated that she feels it's a good idea for the Friends and the ECOA board to meet and work together on the future needs of the ECOA.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2022 at 8:30am.

