

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2022
8:30am

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:29 am.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary asked for the Board's approval of the minutes from April 29, 2022. She asked that the minutes reflect that the next meeting is on May 20, 2022. Marvene asked that the typo be corrected in the spelling of Nancy Ignacio's last name in the segment entitled 'Approval of the Minutes'. Marvene O'Rourke made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Nancy Ignacio seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Budget:

Lyndsay reviewed the budget and reported that there was no notable activity to report. She shared that there are some big ticket items on the horizon, including new computers (\$1000) for two staff members. Lyndsay reported that we have purchased a new My Senior Center kiosk (\$1450) and key fobs (\$240). She thanked the Friends for their generous financial support in purchasing a new minisplit system for the programming room.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay thanked the Board for their guidance and support during this time of an increase in the Covid-19 numbers on the island. She shared that the ECOA falls into a unique category according to the public health officials, and that that causes us to have a more involved role once someone who has been in our building tests positive. Lyndsay reviewed the guidelines that the Boards of Health expect us to follow when we return to serving meals in the building. She shared that she welcomes the Board's input in these decisions, and that the conversation will be an ongoing one re: community numbers and precautions. Several Board members verbally confirmed that the decision to not serve meals at this time is the correct one.

Marvene O'Rourke asked what will happen if someone comes into the building showing symptoms, and whether we have a good supply of rapid tests. Lyndsay replied that yes, we have plenty of rapid tests, though we would need to suggest that they test. We wouldn't have the option of mandating it.

Jay Sigler asked if we have an idea of how many people who have come to the Anchors have been infected with the virus. Lyndsay shared that we do not have a way to track those who are sick with Covid, but we do have a fairly comprehensive record of those who are vaccinated and boosted.

The Board discussed the prospect of mandating masks and came to a decision of encouraging masks, but not mandating them.

The ECOA van program is slowly taking off, and we continue to look for referrals for residents who could benefit from rides in our ECOA/VTA van.

In a recent meeting with other COAs and MVH, Lyndsay was alerted to a need for participants in a Patient Family Advisory Council. MVH is looking for 8-10 volunteers to take part in a meeting on the first Wednesday of each month via Zoom.

Lyndsay asked that the Board approve a check for \$298 from the Stop & Shop Bloomin' for Good program. If approved, this check would be deposited into the ECOA Special Account. John Dropick made the motion to allow this check to be deposited, and Jay Sigler seconded this motion. The Board approved this unanimously.

Five Year Planning Committee Report:

Marvene shared that the committee has met once since the last board meeting. At that meeting, Lyndsay reported that Town Counsel has not yet weighed in on whether the ECOA building and/or property is deed restricted. The committee reviewed tasks that they can undertake at this time, including reviewing data of Edgartown older adults. Several members will begin to work on a strategic plan. Other members will work with Meris to help to develop a survey for ECOA participants. Several committee members plan to meet with ECOA staff to determine their wish list for a potential future senior center. At the next meeting on June 15, there is hope that a member from the Edgartown Steering Committee will join the group to share a broader view of the Town's plans for the future, and how older adults fit into this plan.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris reported on the ECOA/VTA van ridership, and the benefits it is bringing to the people who are taking advantage of this transportation program.

Meris mentioned that she continues to build a relationship with Hospice, and she hopes to bring some programming to the ECOA with their support and their mission in mind.

Meris shared that the field trip to the MV Museum was a big success, with 14 participants. Our volunteer driver, Bruce, drove a participant to the event, and that process went smoothly.

Meris stated that there are nine people signed up for the 'My Life, My Health' weekly Zoom series that is presented by MVH community support specialists, Karen Dowd and Doreen Anderson and sponsored by the ECOA.

She announced that there will be an in-person viewing of the LGBTQ training at the ECOA on May 23 and June 2 and that we're happy to help if anyone needs technical help taking the training.

Tech trainer Kathy Lavieiri is returning to offer Ipad classes; stay tuned for details on future classes. She will be offering classes through the Edgartown Library, and the ECOA will be co-sponsoring these trainings.

Meris shared that on May 26, the ECOA is sponsoring a tour of Edgartown that ends at the Carnegie Museum. Meris has connected with the new curator, Miranda Dale, and Ms. Is very much interested in collaborating with the ECOA in the future.

Several participants have requested that we re-start the garden swap, so that program will begin again soon. Meris' husband Bryan Begley built a replacement table for the ECOA to accommodate all plant donations. We thank Bryan for his commitment to the ECOA and his consistent willingness to help us.

There is a Nantucket trip scheduled for June 6, and as of now, there are 46 people signed up to attend. Meris stated that this is a popular trip, and that this time, we have been able to offer a bus tour of Nantucket for an extra fee of \$30. Checks for the bus tour should be made out to the Friends of the Edgartown Council on Aging. Guests should pay for their boat tickets directly through the HyLine, but there is a code available to reduce the cost.

Meris announced that April was Volunteer Appreciation Week, and she warmly thanked the Board for all they do to support the ECOA. She encouraged them to stop by to pick up their thank you gift.

Outreach Report:

Victoria Haeselbarth introduced temporary outreach support worker Gabrielle Nash. Victoria shared the projects that Gabrielle has been working on, and she encouraged our Board members to stop by to meet her.

Victoria's report included an update on our new client of Brazilian descent who does not speak English. Victoria works with the client's adult son to understand her needs and try to offer assistance. She hopes we can look for ways to expand our offerings to this community in the future, possibly by partnering with other island agencies.

Victoria reported helping four residents to get connected to new medical providers at MVH. She shared the good news about the new providers at MVH and how this will better serve Edgartown's older residents.

She reported that she is supporting two residents to get financial support for their water bills, as the town's low-income program for water bills has ended. Victoria reported that while Fuel Assistance was listed as an agency to help provide support for these residents, Victoria has learned that water bill assistance is not an active part of Fuel Assistance's programming right now. Victoria reported that there is FEMA money available through the MV Center for Living, and that that avenue for support will be helpful to our participants for the time being.

John Dropick inquired as to how much money this might entail in a six month or annual period. Victoria said she would need to look into it, but she believed it often amounted to a charge of approximately \$200.00 per household every six months. Lyndsay added that the Water Dept. is concerned about the impact this has on Edgartown residents, and the department plans to work with us to identify vulnerable customers.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice offered the Friends' help with the residents' water bills. She shared that the Friends are happy to pay for the new minisplit system. We revisited the idea of the Friends meeting with Rosemary and Lyndsay at a date to be determined in the fall.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:38 am.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 17, 2022 at 8:30am.

