

Edgartown Council On Aging Five-Year Planning Committee

Edgartown Council On Aging
10 Daggett Street, PO Box 1295
Edgartown, MA 02539
Telephone (508) 627-4368

Minutes of June 29, 2022 Meeting

Members present via Zoom: Marvene O'Rourke, Carolyn O'Daly, Janice Belisle, Barbara Phillips, Nancy Ignacio and Lyndsay Famariss.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Marvene O'Rourke, Chair.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting were accepted as written.

Guest Speaker

Chair introduced our guest, Juliet Mulinare, chair of the Edgartown Master Plan Steering Committee. Ms. Mulinare is very active in Edgartown and is on many town committees. She explained that the State of Massachusetts requires each town to have a master plan. There are nine topics specific to each town that must be included.

They are:

1. All things transportation
2. Utilities
3. Climate Change
4. Economic development, and historic district
5. Education
6. Harbor Front, access and water quality
7. Open space, agriculture, and open space access
8. Local governing structure
9. Affordable housing. Improving zoning to provide housing.

Ms. Mulinare mentioned the workshops in both February and June

saying they were very helpful and recommended that we go to the website EngageEdgartown.com and watch the June workshop presentation. There was a discussion about the committee's ideas for Dock Street which will impact the COA. Plans were discussed for Ms. Molinare to come speak at the Anchors some time in September.

Administrator's Report:

Lyndsay met with the town administrator about the ongoing negotiations regarding the Kelley House construction and the parking for the ECOA. Kelley House attorneys have drafted an easement as a legal document regarding parking spaces allotted to the COA. Construction will take the next several months. The Kelley House has proposed the COA may use the 9 allocated parking spaces between 9-5 Monday through Friday, They have also requested 30 days notice prior to events with large number of participants. This is not acceptable since ECOA hours of operation are 8am to 4pm. In addition AA meetings are held in the building Sunday night, there are other occasions when a staff member must access the building such as if a patient is discharged from the hospital and equipment needs to be retrieved for them. Also the landscapers come on the weekend and they need a space to park their equipment. Also there needs to be enough space for the propane delivery and trash pickup both of which use large trucks. Losing spaces has the staff feeling squeezed and would like to be able to better serve the center and town.

Update from Working Groups:

Carolyn met with Meris regarding a survey. The last survey done in 2019 but was limited to programs. They discussed looking at other COAs on the Cape such as Chatham since the demographics are almost identical to Edgartown. Topics to compare include how they conducted their space needs analysis and how they determined the size the senior center should be based on the senior population of the town, budgetary constraints, and how a building could meet current and future needs. The working group will meet again to continue to work on a survey.

Nancy will be meeting with ECOA staff in the near future.

Discussion

Members of the Committee discussed key benefits the ECOA provides to the town and its senior population.

The Senior Center supports programs that help seniors age in Edgartown by providing health insurance counseling (SHINE), Outreach and Information referrals, medical equipment loans and transportation, fitness, health, and wellness as well as nutrition.

The benefits to a community of a well-served senior population can reduce impacts on emergency medical services, sustainable property values and a continued, unsubsidized tax base.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Next meeting will be held at the Anchors on September 28st at 2:00 pm. There will be no meeting in July or August

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn O'Daly, Secretary