

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
Sept. 16, 2022
8:30am

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:31am.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary asked for the Board's approval of the minutes from June 17, 2022 and August 12, 2022. John Dropick 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 reviewed the year-to-date budget and asked for any questions from the Board. Lyndsay pointed out that several line items will need an increase in the FY24 to the rising costs of utilities and supplies.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay shared that the winning bidder for the ECOA exterior painting job is Scholar painting of CT. She explained that we hope to get Kelley House approval later today to use space in their parking lot, including overnight parking. John Dropick asked for more details on the Scholar Painting contract, including an expected start date. Lyndsay responded that the start date is pending approval from the Kelley House parking, but she expects it will be soon.

Lyndsay asked for permission to close the Anchors to our regular programming on October 19-20, 2022 so that the staff can attend the annual MCOA conference in Falmouth. The building will remain open to the Matter of Balance program that Healthy Aging is sponsoring, and our cook Diane Wall will be in the building cooking. John Dropick made the motion that the Board approve the ECOA staff's attendance at the MCOA conference as well as the closing of the Anchors building on October 19-20, 2022.

Lyndsay presented that the staff would like to ask the Board for approval to open the Anchors for in-person lunches beginning October 11, 2022. Lyndsay relayed that Matt Poole, Edgartown Board of Health agent, approved this idea with no restrictions. Lyndsay pointed out that the ECOA will not be able to offer both in-person and to-go meals after October 11th due to staffing and kitchen space constraints. Meals will continue to be offered on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Board unanimously voted to approve these two requests.

Lyndsay asked the Board to approve the following checks:

- From Peter Lawston-Johnston in the amount of \$200.00
- from the Stop & Shop Bloomin' for Good Program in the amount of \$72.00.
- from the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program in the amount of \$7.00

Nancy Ignacio moved to accept these checks as presented and Marvene O'Rourke seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Lyndsay brought up the need to fill two vacant spots on the ECOA board. Two people, Olga Church and Shirley Dewing, have already expressed an interest in these positions. The Board discussed the need to advertise and interview interested candidates. Members suggested qualities of new members, and possible names to consider. Lyndsay stated that she hoped that we find other ways to utilize the skills of the people who have expressed interest, should they not be the people to step into the Board roles.

Lyndsay reported on the Kelley House construction project, and the limits to the rights that the ECOA has as an abutter. Lyndsay shared that she will be meeting with the Kelley House construction company, James Hagerty and building inspector Reade Milne immediately after the board meeting.

Lyndsay reported that an incident in the kitchen led to scheduling the Edgartown Fire Dept. to come by to inspect our fire suppression system.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris reported that the increasing costs of food and packaging (\$1 per meal) have led to discussion about the need to increase the cost of lunch at the ECOA. She shared her screen to review the food account, and the historic donations made by the Friends organization to support this program.

There was a discussion about the cost of meals currently, and what might make sense as we move forward. Meris shared that she reached out to the Friends organization to inquire about their interest in continuing their donations at previous year's levels, but she heard no response. Meris added that the food donations we used to get from Island Grown Initiative are no longer coming our way due to the summer's drought and the increasing need for fresh produce at the Island Food Pantry.

Lyndsay summed up the discussion by saying that the board's feedback appears to be that we wait on raising prices at this time, and we will put our support behind Janice, who plans to go to the whole Friends board with this pressing issue. John Dropick suggested that we let people know when they come in for lunches that a meal price increase is on the horizon so that they aren't surprised.

Meris reported that the Nantucket trip is scheduled for October 3rd. The participants will be treated to free admission at the Nantucket Whaling Museum.

She shared that Matter of balance, a Falls Prevention evidence-based program, will be taking place in the Anchors building for an 8 week run.

Meris offered to show the Board My Senior Center, the software the COAs use to collect data on a daily basis. She will do so at November's board meeting.

Lyndsay complimented Meris on her work with the ECOA van and on all of the programming work that is taking place now.

Outreach Report:

Lyndsay read a report from Victoria, who was out on this day.

Victoria has been assisting two clients with the charge of getting them assigned to a primary care physician at MVH. She is also assisting someone who is applying to Island Elderly Housing- someone who used to be a volunteer at the ECOA.

She reported that she has helped three people this week alone with Fuel Assistance applications.

Five Year Planning Committee Report:

Marvene O'Rourke reported on the latest Five Year Planning C'tee meeting. She included a report of a meeting with Kelly Burke of MCOA about her experience as Director of the Northborough COA when they built a new building. Kelly suggested that we develop a timeline, that we consider hiring a consultant, and contracting for a feasibility study.

Marvene reported that the c'tee discussed coming up with a clear message that all involved will carry forward on this effort.

She shared that the c'tee spoke about the possibility of meeting with the selectboard in the fall to ask for their support in our efforts to pursue next steps.

John Dropick asked Lyndsay to consider asking James Hagerty to hire a consultant, or whether he would prefer for us to put this item on the warrant for the spring Town Meeting.

Lyndsay shared that she will be speaking with the director of the UMass Boston Gerontology Center in the near future to discuss next steps.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice reported that she will be getting in touch with the whole Friends organization to discuss the need for financial support in the meals program, and also potentially for their support in the Five Year Planning Committee's need for funding a consultant and/or feasibility study, depending upon the Town's involvement.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:42 am.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 21, 2022 at 8:30am.