

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2023
8:30am

Present: Marvene O'Rourke (MO), John Dropick (JD), Jay Sigler (JS), Nancy Ignacio (NI), Janice Belisle (JB); Administrator Lyndsay Famariss (LF). Bill Glazier (BG); Lisa Sherman (LS) **Absent:** Rosemary Cunningham (RC)

The meeting was called to order by Board Co-Chair MO at 8:33 am

Approval of the Minutes:

Due to a problem with version the board received of the minutes from the January 20, 2023 meeting, a vote will be taken at the next board meeting to approve them.

Budget:

LF thanked the board for their approval in making her a signatory for the bills and payroll of the ECOA. She reported that there are no particular items to draw the board's attention to, but that she's open to talking or meeting with any board member with any questions they might have.

Administrator's report:

LF welcomed Lisa Sherman (LS) as the newest board member. LS expressed her enthusiasm for joining the board, and said that she looks forward to working with Lyndsay and the rest of the board. She shared info about a recent positive Covid case in our building, and what that meant from a public health perspective.

LF reported that the parking agreement with the Kelley House is still in the process of getting ironed out between attorneys. It will go in front of the annual Town Meeting in April.

LF shared that the addition of Bill Glazier as a part-time outreach worker has been very helpful in this time of greater need for case management.

Five Year Committee Report:

MO reported that the Committee's next steps include visiting several COAs off island and hosting focus groups of community members with Cindy Trish facilitating.

MO shared that she has found that new centers' building projects can take a long time to complete, and that they are costly, as we would imagine.

MO pointed out that the members of the Five Year Committee need to be appointed and approved by the Select board in order for the committee to be recognized as a formal Town committee. MO made a motion, seconded by JS, that Board President RC send a letter to the Select board with the names of committee members for their approval.

MO pointed out that there will be a need for a major fundraising drive led by our Friends organization, in addition to a feasibility study, building committee, Owner's Project Manager and an architect, designer.

LF shared that the news of this need to formalize the Five Year Committee's membership means that the update on this committee will not be included in 2022's

annual report to the Town. JD suggested that LF make a formal presentation at the annual Town Meeting to update residents on these efforts.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris Keating is out today, so LF read a report from her. MK thanked Board members for sending in photos for the new website. She reported that the new journaling group that MK and Donna Paulson are running has been a success. MK's report included notice of a traditional St. Patrick's Day celebration, complete with live musicians, at the Anchors. She shared that a social security representative will give a presentation in March at one of our Friday lunches.

LF offered that the bowling program has restarted, and instead of being a monthly event, the bowlers are competing every week. Bill Glazier has been representing the ECOA staff at the bowling mornings. LF thanked the Friends for helping to underwrite this popular program.

LF reported that Diane Wall will take the next two weeks off to welcome a new grandchild into her family.

JD reported on the AARP Tax Preparation program, and shared that it is going full speed, covering the entire island. LF highlighted how valuable this program is, and how much residents appreciate this free service.

Outreach Report:

Victoria reported that Bill Glazier has joined the staff, and that he has hit the ground running. VH shared that there has been a great deal of effort put into an Edgartown older adult's need to reclaim his benefits due to a complicated immigration situation. She shared that another family has presented with complex needs, and Bill and Victoria have been working hard to get them connected to resources. VH thanked JJB and JD for their help in getting the Friends of the ECOA and The Edgartown Firemen's Association involved in partnering with Healthy Aging MV to install a much-needed ramp in an older adult's home. This ramp will allow the resident to attend critical doctor's appointments that have been impossible prior to this.

VH brought to the Board's attention a potential scam involving Medicare fraud. VH has been working with the Edgartown Police Dept to investigate and determine next steps. BG shared his background and spoke about how much he enjoys being part of the ECOA team. He expanded on the cases that he's working on, and he expressed his interest in problem solving and getting resolutions for people who have been struggling. MO offered the name of Rachel Self as a local immigration attorney who might be able to help us in these efforts.

LF praised BG for his can-do attitude and his ability to dig into any problem with a determination to do what it takes to solve it.

MO thanked the ECOA for the knee scooter that she has borrowed from the medical equipment loan program at the Anchors.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

JB shared that the Friends are happy to be a part of the effort to install a ramp in the Edgartown older adult's home.

JB asked if the Town might sell the Anchors building to make enough money to build a new building, and a short discussion followed.

New Business:

There was no new business.

MO adjourned the meeting at 10:14 am.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2023 at 8:30am.