

**EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**May 18, 2018**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Jay Sigler. Also present were Co-chair Rosemary Cunningham, Heidi Boyd, Marvene O'Rourke, Administrator Paul Mohair, and Janice Belisle from the Edgartown Council on Aging Friends. Steve Miller, an Edgartown resident who is interested in joining the Board, attended as well. Everyone present welcomed and introduced themselves to Steve.

**Minutes** Copies of proposed minutes from the April 27, 2018, meeting were distributed and read. With the exception of a correction by Marvene, wherein the first sentence of the Administrator's report contained the date, July First, which was amended to appear as "July first," the minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

**Friends of ECOA Report** Janice Belisle, the Friends' treasurer, was present to give a report. She said they recently received a \$500 donation and she is applying to the Vineyard Golf Club again for a grant this year, which in the past three years has resulted in \$5,000 donations each year. There was discussion about the Friends, their organization, activities and purpose. Janice mentioned the Friends also make direct contributions to needy Edgartown seniors.

**Budget** Paul distributed the budget report of year to date expenses as of May 16th. Jay explained a bit about the budget, including staff salaries over which the Board has no discretion. Paul described how a few line items exceeded the budget by way of rate increases, etc. Presently, there is a balance of about \$8,000 unspent to last until the end of the fiscal year, June 30. Answering Rosemary, Paul said he is allowed to move money from line item to line item within the operating budget, but not to personnel salaries or vice versa. There was general discussion about the budget. The Board unanimously approved the expenses as presented.

**Administrator's Report** Paul presented the Board with a 2018, first quarter report of all our outreach activity as recorded in our MySeniorCenter program. Paul explained this is not our programming or events, the activities Wendy plans, but the outreach efforts by Victoria and the staff. The large number of information contacts is mostly the result of calls by, or with, each staff member. Also our part-time outreach person called all seniors on the Edgartown street list. But otherwise the overall outreach is a very large number and shows the Anchors using much of its resources to reach Edgartown seniors who do not come to the Anchors. The unduplicated number in the second column, 475, is the total number of separate individuals contacted and served in one manner or another according to the listed categories. There was discussion about the statistics.

Paul asked for a resolution authorizing Heidi to approve our department warrants paying our vendors and also our bi-weekly payroll. In addition we will need an alternate signatory in the

event Heidi is unavailable. Paul read the resolution which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. Marvene agreed to act as the alternate. Paul presented the written resolution. At Heidi's request, Paul explained the process by which the invoices are paid and the expenses are documented in the town bookkeeping system called Munis. He said he would go over it in more detail with Heidi when the next batch of invoices are to be paid. There was discussion. The resolution making Heidi signatory with Marvene as alternate was passed unanimously. Jay then signed the resolution.

Paul mentioned the balance of the state grant which he may use to get a new commercial refrigerator for our surplus food which we distribute to needy seniors.

**Director of Senior Services Report** Wendy entered the meeting. She reported some upcoming events and activities, including a series of free classes with instruction and support for those with serious and long term health problems or conditions. We are having more iPad classes and instruction, which will include one-on-one sessions. We will have a movie every month. Lisa, the library Director, has agreed to purchase a movie if there is one we want and otherwise unavailable. We are having a handwriting analysis program in which those interested will submit samples in advance and the expert will examine and give her findings via conference over the internet. Tom Dresser will give a talk on his new book, Whaling on Martha's Vineyard. Robert Gilkes, former Harbormaster, will give a slideshow presentation and talk on climate change and erosion on Chappy. Wendy has scheduled a mediation program for families in conflict, including role play by the mediators. Our newly formed art club will hang their art in the Anchors as artists of the month in June. We have scheduled a trip to the Cape Pogue light house, including a self-guided tour of Mytoi Gardens on Chappy. Jim Thomas' Spiritual Choir shall perform, as well as the Vineyard Sound in July. Wendy may combine July and August newsletters into one issue which she did last year and worked out well. This coming Monday a high school art class is coming to meet with our art club to discuss and share projects as an intergenerational program. The value of intergenerational programs was discussed.

Wendy mentioned the trip to Chappy, the lighthouse, and Mytoi, on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Board complimented Wendy for her hard work filling all days with interesting programming and events. Wendy then left the meeting.

**Outreach Report** Victoria then entered the room. She spoke about some of her cases, including ones involving Protective Services. She talked about one of our seniors to whom our Friends have been very generous, helping with utilities and rent. There was discussion regarding getting Protective Services involved and determining a diagnosis of dementia. Victoria also got the VA to assist, providing benefits. The difficulty of dealing with Protective Services was also mentioned. We have a number of cases in which Protective Services is investigating and providing services (such as they are). Strategies for improving Protective Services on the island were discussed. There was general agreement we will have to collaborate with other island COAs and pursue remedies at the state executive and legislative level. Victoria opined this is a growing problem that needs attention.

Victoria talked about housing and the potentially homeless. She advised of various efforts on the island to develop low income housing for the island elderly.

The first quarter outreach statistics were reviewed and commented upon.

Victoria then left the meeting.

**New Board Officers and Membership** Jay advised the Board members had conferred and agreed that Jay would serve as Chair for one year with Rosemary as Co-chair for the same term. Terms and new officers will be reconsidered after the one year period. Upon motion by Rosemary, seconded by Marvene, Jay was unanimously elected Board Chair. Upon motion by Jay, seconded by Marvene, Rosemary was unanimously elected Board Co-chair. Paul had advertised for new members. Steve Miller, attending the meeting, introduced himself and expressed an interest in joining the Board. Steve told of his career in the medical field, how he came to Martha's Vineyard about twenty years ago, and involvement with the Edgartown library and island environmental groups. He said he hopes he can act as an Anchors liaison with these organizations. The Board hoped Steve would like to join. Paul said he will confer with Steve and hopefully he will join at our next meeting. Jay further explained to Steve the function of the Board as an advisory Board which does not demand much work outside of the meetings.

**New Business** There was no new business. The next meeting shall be Friday, June 15th.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:40 am.