

**EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING**

Oct 19, 2018

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Jay Sigler. Also present were Board members Rosemary Cunningham, Marvene O'Rourke, and Nancy Ignacio. Heidi, Mary Jane, and Steve had advised they would not be able to attend. Also present were Administrator Paul Mohair and Janice Belisle, Treasurer from the Friends of the Edgartown Council on Aging. Paul pointed out that the board members that were not present gave adequate notice of their absence per our by-laws policy.

Minutes Copies of proposed minutes from the September, 2018, meeting were distributed and read. Jay noted that he could not approve them because he was not at the meeting. Upon motion by Nancy, seconded by Rosemary, the minutes were unanimously adopted.

Budget Paul distributed copies of the year to date budget and expenses report as of October 12th. Paul said he paid for the work done to replace the electric cable in July. Referring to the "building maintenance" line item, he noted it was overspent by over \$3,000, due to three major repairs to the Anchors this fiscal year, which Paul described. It remains to be seen whether he will have to get more money from the town or if these expenses can be absorbed by less spending in other line items. Paul said he still needs to pay for landscaping, trash removal, etc., out of building maintenance for the fiscal year. There was discussion. Paul talked about the state-wide COA conference this month that he, Wendy, and Victoria are attending.

Paul received a memo this week from James Hagerty, the Town Administrator, who directed all town departments to submit budgets for next fiscal year with no increases in operating costs. Funding for social services for seniors (Core, First Stop, and MV Healthy Aging) were discussed and whether to include such funding in the COA budget or continue to fund them through articles on the spring town warrant. Paul said he will have more on this at the next Board meeting.

Administrator's Report Paul said James Hagerty came to lunch Tuesday and passed out a town organization chart, copies of which Paul gave to the Board members. There was discussion. Paul explained the new town policy that all donations given to ECOA have to be approved by the Board and then our Selectmen. Paul said this is just donations to ECOA, to our special account, not donations to our Friends. There was discussion. Paul offered to email the description of the special account to the Board.

Marvene said that the Anchors is not a 501c(3). Paul agreed but added that it is also a nonprofit. At Jay's request, Paul explained again the function of the special account and donations. Paul informed the Board of Ethel Chapman's donation/check for \$25 in memory of Margery Cook, and another check from the State Employees Union Charitable Foundation in Quincy for \$500. The Employees' donation has been approved by the Selectmen. The Board resolved unanimously to approve and accept the two donations.

Paul talked about the annual Formula Grant application. Paul intends to use the \$8,400 to hire a part time outreach worker for twenty-two weeks, twelve hours per week, as we have in the past. There was discussion.

Director of Senior Services Wendy then entered the meeting. Wendy talked about James Hagerty speaking at our lunch on National Boss's Day, Tuesday. She described some programming, including the recent Cape Cod Canal train trip we shared with Up Island Council on Aging. In November, CONNECT to End Violence from MVCS will speak here about domestic violence, elder abuse, financial abuse, and where to go for help.

Diane is conducting a cooking class, including the history of pasta. Our once a month hearing / ear wellness program is very popular.

We will be having a hand writing analysis program, as well as continuing our tai chi classes. Jay suggested bringing in a psychic or palm reader.

Next month we will also have a lunch recognizing island veterans, offering veterans a free lunch. We shall also honor our volunteers in November. Wendy complimented town nurse Lila Fisher for doing health screenings, and giving a storm preparedness talk. Wendy also mentioned the six week "My Life, My Health" class that just ended. There was discussion.

Janice asked if it was well attended, and Wendy answered that it started out strong and finished with a few less attendees. In December we have our holiday open house and the Minnesingers.

Wendy talked about volunteer Bill Glazier, our SHINE counselor and the program.

Wendy and Paul talked about delivering Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

Paul advised he would write "thank you"s to our two donors.

Wendy left the meeting and Victoria then entered.

Before she began her report, Paul described the Safe Seniors program training and that it will be presented at the Anchors. He displayed the poster and letter explaining the program. There was discussion. Paul advised the training will be on November 13th, at the Oak Bluffs COA.

Outreach Victoria mentioned the increase in fuel assistance applications and upcoming Safe Seniors program. It is anticipated our grant funded part time intern will be helpful with the increased workload.

Victoria also talked about our outreach collaboration with the town fire/EMT department in which she and Brenden, an EMT, are going to the homes of homebound or frail seniors to do wellness and safety checks, including checking smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, and lock boxes, while doing an overall inspection of the home for hazards or whatever may put a senior at risk. Our Friends have created an account by which Brenden can access funds to purchase detectors, extinguishers, and lock boxes where they may be needed or requested. Victoria handed out the informal check list she created that she reviews with the homeowner, including files of life, emergency storm calls, medical and other special needs. She reviewed the checklist and there was discussion.

By request, Wendy handed out "Files of Life" to the Board. Janice suggested passing them out at Coffee With a Cop or other events.

Victoria talked about the MCOA conference next week, workshops, and programs. There was discussion. Paul briefly discussed his (non)progress with Protective Services and his plan to meet with the new head of Protective Services at the conference. There was more discussion.

At her request, the Board agreed Victoria may provide a written report for next month's meeting so that she may attend an annual conference on dementia in Hyannis.

Victoria then left the room.

Friends of ECOA Janice spoke about the account the Friends have opened for the fire and EMTs to provide safety devices for seniors' homes.

The Friends also recently purchased a bike for a needy senior's grandson, whom she is raising. They have also recently provided fuel assistance and taxi fares for needy Edgartown seniors, as well as the usual trip and exercise instructor subsidies.

There was brief discussion and a unanimous expression of gratitude to Janice and our Friends.

New Business There being no new business, it was unanimously resolved the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 am.