

**EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING**

November 16, 2018

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Jay Sigler. Also present were Board members Co-chair Rosemary Cunningham, Marvene O'Rourke, Nancy Ignacio, Steve Miller, Mary Jane Carpenter, Heidi Boyd, and Administrator Paul Mohair.

Minutes Copies of proposed minutes from the October 19, 2018, meeting were distributed and Jay observed there had been questions about our "special account" and for what the funds were used. Paul responded that, simply, the special account pays for our lunches. Answering Steve, Paul answered that Wendy manages the account and there is a balance of about \$4,000. Heidi signs off on disbursements from the account and all deposits and expenses go through the town accountant and treasurer. There was brief discussion. Paul said financial donations to the town are tax deductible as long as they are used for public purposes. There was discussion. Upon motion by Steve, seconded by Nancy, the minutes were unanimously adopted.

Budget Paul handed out copies of the budget report as of November 13th. Paul noted that we are 35% through our fiscal year, most of the expenses do not exceed 35% with the exception of the building maintenance line item, which is \$4,000 over budget. Salaries remain the same. He said the town miscalculated our cook's salary and he will have to ask FinCom to increase her salary by about \$1,000. Steve asked if there was an expense for outreach, besides salary. Paul said there is a travel mileage expense for the outreach worker's home visits. Paul explained that the outreach worker's job is not to provide services, but to connect the person in need with services. Although the Anchors, of course, provides many services to our seniors. Paul also mentioned our new town administrator instructed that all budgets for the next fiscal year, FY 2020, be submitted without any increases. Our present budget, except for salaries, will be the same for the next fiscal year. There was discussion. Paul will submit the FY 2020 budget by the end of this month, and will go before FinCom later to present the budget. There was brief discussion and no further questions.

Administrator's Report Paul said the Red Stocking Fund, a local nonprofit, is applying to use the Anchors lawn/property- not the building- for their annual fund raising chowder festival contest. Paul said he explained the rules to their rep and gave them an application to use the property. The event is December 8th. Paul read the application rules to the Board. The Board unanimously approved this requested use.

Paul then talked about the conference he, Wendy, and Victoria attended in October. Paul mentioned the appointment he had made with the new head of Protective Services at the conference. She did not show for the appointment. She and Paul have since traded emails. Marvene recommended Paul meet with Dylan Fernandes, our state representative, who will be on the island next week. Paul said he will.

Paul said he placed an ad in the Times, on the town website, and at town hall for the part time outreach worker who will be funded by our annual state formula grant. Steve asked where the grant money comes from. Paul said it comes from the state and, in part, the federal government. It is called a formula grant because the amount of grant money is based on senior population in the town. Paul plans for the outreach worker to begin in January.

Paul mentioned the Safe Seniors training meeting the week before that Rosemary, Mary Jane, and Nancy attended. Paul will have the three Board members and our staff convene for our own mini-training and plan our Safe Seniors presentation for Edgartown. Paul explained that the training is to raise consciousness and awareness of impaired or seniors at risk in public places. Answering Jay, Paul said that each COA has been given the materials and training to implement the Safe Seniors; it is each COA's how to proceed. Paul said he would keep the Board informed of future meetings at the Anchors. There was extended discussion about the program. Both Paul and Jay thanked the Board members who attended the presentation. Paul showed the Safe Seniors letter of introduction, poster and rack cards.

Director of Senior Services Wendy then entered the meeting and passed out boxes of Chilmark Chocolates as a thank you gift to each member of the board. Wendy talked about December events. The Minnesingers will perform at lunch on December 4th. Our holiday open house will be on December 7th, where we serve chili and give out ECOA 2019 planners. The poets group will recite their poems and be honored at lunch on December 14th. Our usual bowling outing will be on Monday, December 3rd. Wendy said the new hearing tests with Shawn are very popular and will be on Monday, December 10th. Wendy expressed appreciation for Bill Glazier who continues to do SHINE appointments through the month. Jay mentioned the police holiday dinner which will be on December 2nd, at the Edgartown school. There was discussion.

Adele will play for a holiday sing along in December.

Wendy said there is presently about \$4,700 in the special account. Paul said she and Diane, our cook, do a wonderful job of managing our food and lunch budget.

Jay asked about the Anchors being closed for Christmas. Wendy advised that we are also closed Monday, December 24th. Wendy talked about she, Paul, Victoria, and some other volunteers delivering Thanksgiving meals to about 20 Edgartown families. Our police department also delivers fresh turkeys also to some seniors. Paul said he, Wendy, and Victoria will go to the hospital on Thanksgiving at 11 am to pick up the meals and deliver them. We also deliver meals on Christmas and Easter. There were no more questions, and Wendy left the room.

Outreach Paul explained that Donna and Victoria are both out today; Donna is at a retreat, and Victoria is at a training workshop for dementia. Victoria prepared a report for the Board, which Paul read. It said, in part, clients have concerns about escalating heating costs, keeping a stocked pantry and, in the case of one client, relocating from the car in which she has been living.

Fuel assistance applications can be difficult. Sometimes a page is lost, or a client living on social security may no longer file tax returns. Most recently Victoria has been assisting a client who was wrongly rejected because of an administrative error.

The Arbor Inn was purchased by real estate investor, David Rosenberg, who has agreed to rent rooms affordably to those in need. He has a room available for the woman living in her car for a reasonable rate.

Dental health and hygiene has become an issue for some seniors who cannot afford dental care or the cost of replacing dentures. MassHealth, a primary co-insurance for the low income, will pay for basic services including extractions. At least 32 Edgartown seniors will get home delivered Thanksgiving meals through the Anchors and our collaboration with the police department. Victoria described her workshop where a panel will present information such as what Massachusetts state law says about driving with a dementia diagnosis and the significance and management of behavioral changes in older adults. Victoria's report ends here. There was discussion about the Arbor Inn and temporary housing. Marvene asked about the woman who had been living in her car, Paul replied he didn't know any more. Steve asked if the Friends would pay for seniors' medical expenses. Paul said they will pay for medication on a case-to-case basis when requested. There was extended discussion about island health and dental care.

Friends of ECOA Paul apologized for the absence of the Friends at the meeting. There was general discussion about the Friends' role in the community. Jay said there's always the issue of the Friends serving as a welfare organization, a place where people apply for emergency help. Paul said Janice is always responsive to these issues and related that the Friends recently helped a grandmother purchase a bike for her grandson. Paul reported the Friends have been very generous with our outreach program, including visits to provide fire extinguishers, lockboxes, smoke detectors. There was discussion about what the Friends intended to do with the large bequest they recently received. Paul thought their plan is to enlarge the dining/exercise room. Jay advised the Friends can do whatever they wish with their money- there are no strings or conditions. The Friends give the Anchors \$11,000 a year to supplement ECOA events; for example, strength training, yoga, bowling, and trips.

New Business There was general discussion about the how well the Anchors is operating. Jay asked any members who cannot attend the next Board meeting to so advise in advance. There being no new business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:25 am.