

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING

BOARD MEETING

March 16, 2017

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Kevin Ryan. Also present were Glenn Carpenter, Olga Church, Jay Sigler and Administrator Paul Mohair. Heidi had advised she would not be able to attend.

Minutes Copies of proposed minutes from the February 16, 2017, meeting were distributed and read. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

Budget Paul distributed copies of the budget report with expenses as of March 14th. Expenses are about where they should be at this point in our fiscal year. There was general discussion. Answering Glenn, Paul said the Anchors is heated by an oil furnace/hot water system. Jay said the bulkhead by the back entrance is in bad shape. Paul said he keeps having it fixed and delivery and trash trucks keep running over and breaking it.

Friends of ECOA Report Barbara Phillips, Co-president of the Friends of the ECOA, entered the meeting and was welcomed by the Board. Barbara said the Friends have met with Fire Chief Shemeth and Health Department head Matt Poole regarding a Friends sponsored food program for low-income Edgartown seniors to happen in April. Barbara said the Friends want to do something for the seniors who do not make it into the Anchors for whatever reason. The firemen will deliver the meals. The Friends are purchasing a stove, at Paul's request, for a needy Edgartown senior couple. The Friends asked Matt Poole to inspect our kitchen counters and floor to determine their condition and if they need repair or replacement. The Friends increased Wendy's annual budget from \$10,000 to \$11,000 for programming, events, trips, etc. The Friends will meet again in April and will plan their food basket program.

Kevin asked Barbara about outreach into the community. He asked if such projects independent of the Anchors were legal. Kevin said he recently read the by-laws and thought such actions by the Friends were not legal. He asked Barbara if she or the Friends had received any advice in this regard. Barbara said she spoke with Pam Dolby, the town administrator, Nancy Shemeth, a former board member, and Fire Chief Shemeth, all of whom were fine with what the Friends were planning.

Jay produced a copy of the Massachusetts Council on Aging "Handbook for Friends of Councils on Aging." Barbara said she had seen it. At Jay's request, Barbara read from the handbook, "As their name implies, Friends groups exist to help out their local COA." Jay said that's all the Friends exist for and asked how the Friends' direct funding to seniors complies with this stated purpose. Glenn said the Anchors Board would have no problem with Friends initiatives so long as they were through our COA, rather than directly to seniors or through the firemen or other groups. There was discussion. Kevin suggested we all meet with Pam Dolby, and others if necessary, to be clear on the process through which the Friends will finance expenses through the Council on Aging so that it and its seniors are the beneficiaries. Olga said it is about the process and seeing that it is done the right way. Kevin will request a meeting with the Pam and town counsel to resolve any ambiguity and clearly determine the correct way the Anchors will be the recipient of the Friends resources.

Glenn said any problems or needs identified by the Friends should be brought to Paul or our Board. Barbara agreed. Barbara reiterated the Friends planned to use the recent half million dollar donation to expand our large/dining room area. Olga and Jay said we, the Anchors and the Board, must be involved in such a project, as well as any Friends donations or similar expenditures.

Kevin emphasized that the Board and the Anchors staff love the Friends and are very grateful and fortunate for the Friends efforts and generosity. Olga said that it was not fair for Barbara to be singled out at this meeting and suggested that every member of the Friends be made aware of the necessity that any and all donations or charitable efforts be conducted through the Anchors. Kevin will arrange for the meeting between the Friends, the Board, town counsel, and the town Administrator to make clear the process by which we will proceed in this regard.

Paul said the Department policy is that all Anchors requests from the Friends are to come through him and that the staff is aware of this policy.

Kevin said anytime the Friends wish to expend funds for property or items, e.g., a stove, for one senior or individual, the expense must be approved by the Board. There was extended discussion.

Paul thanked the Board for its support.

Administrator's Report Paul said he had his sixth year "anniversary" Tuesday. Tempus fugit. The Board thanked and congratulated Paul. Paul mentioned some of the meetings, work groups, and committees upon which he serves that take place outside of the Anchors building. These include the creation and the implementation of the Safe Seniors program, which replaced the Gatekeepers; weekly attendance at the Healthy Aging MV Executive Committee, on which Paul is the COA representative; he attended the recent TOE Personnel Board meeting to learn more about the proposed new job descriptions and salary scale for all town employees. There was discussion.

Director of Senior Services Report Wendy entered the meeting. Before she gave her report, the room sang Happy Birthday to Glenn and birthday pie was served. Wendy mentioned our trip to "Eataly" at the Prudential Center the end of April. She has also scheduled bowling, a talk from Ray Whitaker about YMCA programs, and Olga will give a Museum presentation about the island and celebrities who have lived and visited here. Wendy said the town nurse will talk about bed bugs after lunch next week. Paul, Wendy, and Victoria will have a table and exhibit at the annual hospital health fair on April 8th. Diane, our cook, will be on vacation one week in April, so we will have pizza and a movie one Friday. Wendy is trying to get a bridge club together that would meet once a week. Wendy is keeping a list of events and programs, such as chair yoga and painting lessons, people have mentioned they might like to attend. Wendy confirmed our policy is that all requests from the Friends go through Paul. Wendy then left the meeting.

Outreach Report Victoria entered the meeting. She reported attending a group meeting at the library yesterday to arrange a care plan for a senior with dementia. She learned Elder Services will reimburse care giving expenses a maximum of \$3 an hour. Most care givers charge at least \$20 per hour. Victoria said there is a state MassHealth frail elder waiver that will reimburse at \$14 an hour and requires much paper work and months to get processed. Victoria is assisting another family to find housing for a senior who lives with her disabled adult child and another with cancer. There was discussion about cancer support organizations on the island. Victoria said the Friends had purchased a stove for a needy senior couple she has been case managing.

Paul asked Victoria about the performance of Emily, our part-time, state grant-funded outreach worker. Victoria said she was doing very well, presently working on having the TRI loan program help fund the replacement of a septic system for a needy family. Paul said Emily has also been a big help with setting up and facilitating our lunches. Victoria also confirmed the Anchors policy regarding requests from the Friends through Paul. The Board thanked Victoria and she left the meeting.

Center for Living Report Paul said that since the MV Times article about the new building was published last month, Leslie told him a contractor had been selected and work on the renovations should begin soon. There was discussion.

New Business Paul said that, on behalf of the staff and Board, a large floral arrangement had been sent to Laurie Schreiber since her husband had died.

The next meeting is April 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.