

## EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING

### BOARD MEETING

April 20, 2017

#### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Jay Sigler. Also present were Olga Church, Heidi Boyd, Administrator Paul Mohair. Glenn and Kevin had advised they would be unable to attend.

**Friends of ECOA Report** Barbara Phillips, Co-president of the Friends of the ECOA, entered the meeting and was welcomed by the Board. Jay called attention to the April 19, 2017, memo from our Town Administrator, addressed to “Council on Aging Members,” regarding “Gift from Helen Bowring to the Friends of the Edgartown Council on Aging.” The memo is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes herein. Barbara acknowledged receiving a copy as have all Board members and Paul. Barbara said she spoke with Pam, the Administrator, since our last meeting concerning the handling of Friends finances and that Pam had also, in turn, spoken to the town attorney, Ron Rappaport. Barbara restated the Friends goal of delivering services to home bound Edgartown seniors who do not come to the Anchors for whatever reason. Everyone agreed that the memo states the Friends can spend the Bowring bequest however they wish- with, or without, the Council on Aging involvement or participation. Everyone also agreed the memo pertains to only the Bowring bequest and not to funds raised by the Friends annual appeal or other fund-raising efforts. Barbara said that, regardless, the Friends will keep the Board informed of how much of the money is being spent and for what purposes.

Olga said her major concern is that the Board is performing pursuant to its legal obligations and that its members be kept informed of what the Friends are doing and how donations received are being spent.

The Board expressed its gratitude and appreciation to Barbara for the information and for coming to our Board meetings, keeping the lines of communication open.

Barbara said the Friends are working with Matt Poole to deliver services to some Edgartown seniors who may otherwise have no contact or relationship with the Anchors. Olga asked, what if it comes to a needy senior’s attention that another needy senior received money or a donation from the Friends and this one did not and asks, “...why didn’t I get a donation or free service” of some kind? Barbara said she did not see a problem. If a needy senior is brought to the Friends’ attention, the Friends will consider contributing in whatever way they consider appropriate. Barbara said so long as the need is brought to the Friends attention through Paul or someone else, she did not think fairness would be a problem. There was discussion on the process by which senior’s needs get identified and met.

Paul expressed appreciation and gratitude to Barbara and all of the Friends for their work and generosity to the Council on Aging. Barbara said the Friends are meeting next Thursday. The Board thanked Barbara and she left the meeting.

There was discussion about Pam's letter/memo and Matt Poole's involvement in the Friends outreach. Jay observed that, with Pam's memo, the Anchors and our Board are totally "off the hook" as far as liability for what the Friends do with the Bowring bequest. Paul distributed Anchors "rack cards" he and Wendy had created and had printed which we passed out at the Health Fair and now have displayed in the reception area.

**Minutes** Copies of proposed minutes from the March 16, 2017, meeting were distributed and read. Upon motion by Olga, seconded by Heidi, the minutes were adopted unanimously.

**Budget** Paul distributed copies of the budget report with expenses as of April 18th. Expenses are about where they should be at this point in our fiscal year. There was general discussion. Paul said there's about \$1,000 in expenses that have not yet been entered into the town system and are not included in this report. Our operating budget has about \$14,000 remaining to last the end of the fiscal year. There was discussion.

**Administrator's Report** Paul said he, Wendy, and Victoria attended the annual hospital health fair earlier this month. We had a table and display, distributing our new rack cards, newsletter, and refrigerator magnets. The fair seemed well attended, though not as crowded as previous years.

The Financial Advisory Committee advised Paul the town will not fund Paul's request to repair the Anchors fence until the repair is approved by the Historical District Committee. There was discussion.

Paul said he was out sick last week; Victoria covered for him at the town meeting.

Victoria stood at the meeting to advocate for the First Stop program. Our budget and a 1.5% pay increase were approved for the next fiscal year, beginning July first. Also, Victoria's hours will increase from 35 to 40 hours per week. Victoria will then no longer be our custodian (something she has been doing for about 20 years). Diane our cook said she is interested in the job of custodian.

**Director of Senior Services Report** Wendy is out sick today. Paul reminded the Board our Volunteer Appreciation luncheon is scheduled for noon on Thursday May 18, at the Harbor View Hotel. Accordingly, next month's Board meeting will be on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion.

Paul said all is well with the staff. Cook Diane is on vacation this week. Tomorrow, Friday, we are having a pizza and movie lunch- "Manchester By the Sea" with pizza from Edgartown Pizza.

**Center for Living Report** Paul said he recently spoke to Leslie who advised renovations had begun on the VNA building and that she hoped to be in by the end of the year. Until then the Center for Living continues to use the Anchors two days a week for the Supportive Day Program. Though it may be going slowly, Paul said, there is light at the

end of the tunnel. There was discussion regarding new programming once the Center leaves, including the use of our Friends funding.

Olga mentioned the difficulty of transportation getting to and from medical appointments on the mainland. There was more discussion.

**Outreach Report** Victoria entered the meeting. Jay asked about outreach, housing, and the Friends. Victoria spoke anecdotally about some of her senior housing cases. Jay said the Friends indicated they are willing to help with senior housing costs. Victoria confirmed she and Matt Poole work together on keeping seniors in the homes where it seems appropriate. Olga suggested a program wherein seniors owning large homes could be matched with younger residents who need housing. Different housing alternatives and the island housing crisis were discussed. Victoria discussed a few more cases, including a father and son who came in at different times for different reasons. Victoria also got a referral from Galley Plumbing about a senior who had a fuel leak in her home. Victoria is referring the senior to the island elder law attorney. Olga asked if the Anchors had access to a lawyer to advise our seniors. Paul said a legal aid elder law attorney comes to the island the first Monday of every month, consulting with any senior who has made an appointment. He comes to each of the island COAs, three times each year. He mostly gives advice on estate planning, but will see anyone for any reason. Victoria said she has an increase in cases where seniors and their families want to keep them in their homes and are looking for dependable care givers. Victoria maintains a list of available care givers. There was discussion.

Paul was out last week sick. He said Victoria did a good job covering for him at the town meeting and Financial Advisory Committee meeting.

Answering Jay, Paul said the First Stop program gets about 3,000 hits or calls for information and referral each month. Victoria said First Stop is expanding to encompass all populations, not just seniors. So far, all towns have approved funding for First Stop for the next fiscal year.

Victoria said the Dukes County Health Council just launched their new web site, [www.dchcmv.com](http://www.dchcmv.com), which Victoria designed. There was discussion about the Health Council.

**New Business** There was no new business.

The next meeting is May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

April 19, 2017

To: Council on Aging Members

From: Town Administrator

Re: Gift from Helen Bowring to the "The Friends of the Edgartown Council on Aging"

A question arose regarding the Helen Bowring gift to the Friends, specifically "who controls expenditure of said funds?"

I spoke with Ron Rappaport and together he and I researched the issue.

In the Friends bylaws, which could be changed at any time by a majority vote of the organization, it states "to raise funds through the media, mail, auctions, sales, raffles etc; to provide financial assistance to or for the benefit of the Edgartown Council on Aging."

Nowhere does it say the Council has exclusive control or benefits to all their funds. The Articles of Organization are very broad and they do not say "only to serve the COA."

In Ms. Bowring's letter she made it very clear the funds were left to the Friends with no restrictions on its use in furtherance of the organization's charitable purposes.

The bottom line here is that the Friends control the gift from Helen Bowring in the amount of \$575,000.00.

The Friends and COA have always worked very well together and we see no reason that should change. We are very comforted knowing the Friends will have the senior citizens best interests at heart when expending these funds.