

**EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**November 16, 2017**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Kevin Ryan. Also present were Rosemary Cunningham, Olga Church, Jay Sigler, Heidi Boyd, Marvene O'Rourke, and Administrator Paul Mohair.

**Minutes** Copies of proposed minutes from the October 26, meeting were distributed and read. Upon motion by Olga, seconded by Marvene, the minutes were adopted unanimously. Paul asked that we take our Friends report out of order so that Barbara Phillips, who was present, could thereafter leave the meeting.

**Friends of ECOA Report** Barbara said the Friends recently met. She said she was encouraged that we hired a part time outreach worker to reach out to Edgartown seniors whom the Anchors was not familiar with or for whom we have no information. Barbara suggested we all meet with Matt who has information regarding the town seniors who might be in the most need of services and support, including winter snow shoveling. Paul further described this effort and its progress. Barbara also mentioned the Friends attempts to reach out through the fire department so that the Friends may remain anonymous. Everyone agreed a meeting of all the interested parties would be a good idea. Barbara mentioned contacting the school guidance department to get students to provide services, such as snow shoveling, for seniors. There was discussion. Barbara then left the meeting.

**Budget** Paul distributed copies of the budget report with expenses as of November 13<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion, including the \$4,000 cost of our new Daggett Street hedges. There was discussion about the line items in general, including training which is now \$11 overspent. Paul said he will be submitting a proposed budget for the next fiscal year, FY 2019. He will be seeking a slight increase to help cover the cost of the MySeniorCenter Program annual maintenance fee of \$1,600. Olga asked what the trend has been with Anchors attendance in general. Paul said our numbers as a whole go up by a small amount every year. That should increase with our latest outreach effort. Every year between 600 and 700 different individuals attend one or more Anchors program. Kevin suggested a spot or segment on the local cable TV. We could film an activity or event.

**New Board Member** Marvene O'Rourke advised she was recently sworn in by the town clerk and is now officially a Board member. Everyone welcomed Marvene.

**Administrator's Report** Paul said the budget for fiscal year 2019 will propose increases in the electric, phone, and equipment maintenance line items. He said raises for all town employees were approved at last week's town meeting. All programs continue to be well attended; our seniors are pleased with Wendy's events and activities. Paul said there is much planning for the time and space that will be created after the Day Program leaves. Paul advised that Meris, our new part-time outreach worker, was doing well, contacting those seniors on the Edgartown street list that have not yet been in to the Anchors. She is moving very quickly down the list. Olga asked the age at which one becomes a "senior." Paul said it depends whom you ask and for what reason, but our street list includes everyone 60 and over. The stigma of "aging," "elders," and "senior centers" was discussed. Singing, musical groups, and other activities were talked about.

**Director of Senior Services Report** Wendy entered the meeting. She said Lesley Clapp advised the Day Program would definitely be out by the third week of January. Wendy said she will then begin her new programming. Wendy will have two Tai Chi classes on Wednesdays. We will also try Chair Yoga on Wednesday afternoon. We will have yoga on Thursday mornings. There will be a movie and bingo on some Mondays; pizza and a movie on other Mondays. We may extend some programming, like poetry, and juggle others so that the days and times are more convenient. Olga asked about a survey of attendees. We agreed to do one very soon. Jay's conversation group created a list of suggestions for new programming. Wendy is also planning more trips for the spring, and trips to places we have not gone before. There was extended discussion regarding Anchors programming and new activities. Kevin suggested walking tours in Edgartown. Wendy talked about more art exhibits in the Anchors as well as our knitters' exhibit. Olga said a singing group would be good for the Anchors. Kevin said the Vintage Voices might be looking for a home.

Wendy said our annual holiday open house is Friday, the December 8<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned a few more activities for December, including bingo with the supportive day program. Kevin said his shop could provide prizes for bingo.

We are also reaching out to our seniors who may want frozen turkeys or turkey dinners for Thanksgiving. We deliver on Thanksgiving Day. Kevin offered to help deliver dinners for Christmas Day.

**Outreach Report** Victoria had called in sick and is absent. Paul mentioned Protective Services and our recent efforts to make it more effective and have more of a presence on the island. At Marvene's request, Victoria had provided her a letter describing three cases where Protective Services would have been more help had there been a case worker on the island, rather than having to come from the Cape on a case-by-case basis. Marvene's idea was to write a letter to State Representative Fernandes and Senator Cyr from the Anchors describing the need and asking for a meeting at which we shall request an on-island representative from Protective Services. Olga suggested the letter be from all island COAs and be signed by directors from all COAs. There was discussion about housing (or lack of it) in general on the island.

**Center for Living Report** Paul said the C4L move is happening on schedule. They are moving out the things they want to keep and discarding what they don't. They will definitely be completely out by the second week of January. We will plan a tasteful goodbye party at the Anchors for them before they leave. Paul will let the Board know when that will be. There was discussion.

**New Business** Heidi mentioned there is a book case at the town library that is for "take a book, leave a book." She asked if we could do the same at the Anchors. Paul said we used to stock pre-owned books behind the receptionist area which was inconvenient and unattractive. Paul said the plan is to convert the fireplace room, in part, into a reading room which will also contain a library of books and DVDs which will include take a book, leave a book. There was discussion.

Paul again reminded the Board of our annual Chili Bar Open House.

Kevin mentioned his annual Reflections of Peace Christmas Concert on December 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Whaling Church this year to benefit Hospice.

The meeting then adjourned at 9:40 am.