

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING
December 21, 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 November 16, 2017, meeting were distributed and read. Marvene moved that the "Matt" in the fourth line under "Friends of ECOA" Report be amended to identify him as "Matt Poole," the head of the town health department. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Marvene also observed a discrepancy. Wendy said the Day Program would relocate by the third week of January; Paul said it would be the second week. Paul agreed there was a discrepancy; he and Wendy had conflicting information. We should be able to clear it up at this meeting. Upon motion by Marvene, seconded by Jay, the minutes were then adopted unanimously with the aforesaid amendment.

Budget Paul distributed copies of the budget report with expenses as of December 19th. Paul said our "training" line item was over budget by \$145. "Office supplies" is over budget because of a \$1,600 cost for our annual MySeniorCenter computer program maintenance and support contract. Paul also purchased a new commercial mixer for our kitchen and a new lap top for the department, the cost for which are reflected under "New Equipment." There was general discussion. Responding to Kevin's question, Paul said he did not anticipate any extraordinary expenses for the balance of the fiscal year.

Administrator's Report Paul said the town has overhauled its salary structure so that (almost) everyone will get a raise and that all "anniversary" dates, salary-wise, will be July 1st, beginning next year. Paul said he will present his proposed 2019 FY budget to the town Finance Advisory Committee next month. Traditionally, Kevin, or another Board member accompanies him. The meeting is scheduled at town hall, Tuesday, January 16th, at 4:20 pm. Paul is asking for an increase for the \$1,600 cost of MySeniorCenter tech support, plus small increases in the utilities line items. Paul submitted no articles for approval at the spring town meeting. Paul completed Wendy's personnel review earlier this month and Victoria's is next month. Staff morale is good. Our holiday open house was very successful with almost 100 people attending.

Director of Senior Services Report Wendy entered the meeting. She showed the Board her draft of the January newsletter. She mentioned a number of suggestions for new programming and activities, including scrapbooking and games. Wendy talked about the results of the Anchors survey we circulated since the last Board meeting. The results were productive and also very complimentary. The surveys were anonymous if the respondent so wished. There was general discussion.

Wendy announced the Center for Living and Supportive Day's last day at the Anchors shall be Wednesday, January 10th. Our plan is to have a small going away party that Wednesday morning. Wendy has scheduled tai chi and chair yoga classes for the now available Mondays and Wednesdays. She already has a number of people signed up for both. Our cook, Diane, will conduct a "make your own pizza" class on the last Monday of January. She

organized a tour of the Gazette on January 10th. She's also arranging for some artists' gallery tours. Wendy's scheduled bingo, pizza, movies, popcorn, and the regularly planned bowling, conversations, etc.

Olga suggested Wendy talk to Anne at the museum about doing more programs at the Anchors. Paul presented the completed surveys. Kevin asked if there were any consistent results or insights, especially concerning ways to improve the Anchors. Paul said the responses were universally complimentary. Some suggestions were trips, walks, more parking, hay rides, more medical services, more lunches, and transportation. There was general discussion.

Outreach Report Victoria then entered the room. She said she has been very busy with fuel assistance, hospice referrals, and CORE referrals. Hospice was discussed. Victoria has also been doing a lot of case management. Specific cases were discussed. Victoria has many cases wherein seniors do not have any family or other support system. These are the most demanding cases that require much individual attention. The role of families in such cases was also discussed. Paul reminded the Board that we, the Anchors and our outreach, do not provide services. Our job and function is to find or connect services where we determine there is a need. Victoria observed this can be very tricky for low-income seniors with little or no assets.

Victoria addressed protective services. She said the other island COAs are also interested in promoting a full-time presence on the island. Tisbury has had a problem getting timely responses to protective service referrals. Marvene observed that, since it is state funded, our local state representatives could definitely be helpful. Victoria and Paul will propose a letter signed by all COA directors.

Paul and Victoria discussed delivering sixteen dinners on Christmas morning with Wendy. The group discussed our part-time outreach worker's progress contacting all Edgartown seniors. Responding to Marvene's question, Victoria explained that many of the town "residents" on the street list actually reside, not on the island, but elsewhere in Massachusetts or another state. The assumption is these are summer residents.

Olga commented on the advantages and uses of collecting data through our MySeniorCenter program.

Victoria then left the meeting.

Friends of ECOA Report With great remorse, Paul apologized to the Board for neglecting to advise Barbara Phillips, our Friends' president, of today's meeting. He emailed her after work last night and, of course, the meeting is posted on the town and our COA web sites. Consequently, no one from our Friends is present.

Paul said he had arranged for a meeting with the Friends' president, Barbara Phillips, Matt Poole, our outreach workers, the fire chief, and himself for the purpose of discussing and planning outreach. The Friends, in general, were discussed. The Board would like more cooperation and communication between our Friends and the Anchors. Paul said he is attempting to make this happen and will keep the Board posted on his progress.

Center for Living Report Paul said the C4L is in the act of moving. Barnes movers have been hired to help move the heavy items. Paul explained to Olga where the C4L new building (the old "VNA building") is located. There was discussion.

New Business There was no new business.

The next meeting is January 18, 2018.

Upon motion by Olga, seconded by Rosemary, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 am.