

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING
April 21, 2016
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Kevin Ryan. Also present were Board members Glenn Carpenter, Chris White, and Paul, the Administrator. Olga Church had advised she would be unable to attend.

Friends of ECOA Janice Belisle, our Friends Treasurer, was present, and put first on the agenda. Janice reported that she, Paul, and Co-President Madeline Fisher had met yesterday with the executor of an estate of an Edgartown woman who had recently passed away. The executor advised that the woman, who wished to remain anonymous, donated half a million dollars to the Friends. The donation has no conditions and will be in cash that the Friends will receive probably next month. There was discussion and Janice left the meeting.

Minutes Copies of proposed minutes from the March 17, 2016, meeting were distributed and read. Upon motion by Glenn, seconded by Chris, the minutes as proposed were adopted unanimously.

Budget Paul distributed copies of the budget report with expenses as of April 15th, as they appear in the town bookkeeping system. Paul said he got a new electric oven since the old one died. This accounts for spending in the New Equipment line item. Otherwise, spending is in keeping with where we are in the fiscal year with no extraordinary expenses. Paul said there will be more building maintenance expenses with some repairs and new acoustic ceiling panels. Responding to Glenn's question, Paul explained the Edgartown Council on Aging has no endowment; we are funded by the town according to our budget, submitted and approved every year. The half million dollar bequest goes directly to our Friends, a private non-profit corporation over which the town has no control. There was discussion.

New Officers Nominating Committee; Re-appointment of Glenn Paul said Glenn had been reappointed by the town to another three-year term. Upon motion by Chris, seconded by Kevin, the board unanimously approved Glenn's appointment. All board members expressed that his or her seat could be made available if anyone is interested in joining the board. Paul explained that every April an ad hoc Nominating Committee is selected to propose new officers at the May board meeting. Kevin advised that he and his family would be relocating to Oak Bluffs next year, so that he would thereafter be unable to serve on the board.

Administrator's Report Paul reported he had attended last week's annual town meeting. The two articles he had submitted passed- the CORE funding and the First Stop funding. Our annual budget was also approved.

Paul distributed two reports he generated from MySeniorCenter for this fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2015. One is the outreach report detailing types and amounts of outreach services, the second showing program and event statistic reports, detailing attendance at the Anchors. Paul said the numbers are an increase over last year at this time. There was discussion. Glenn asked if people are using their key cards. Paul pointed out the last statistic at the bottom of the events report shows number of "swipes" and that most are indeed swiping in.

Paul said the Friends are purchasing the sound absorbing ceiling panels for the dining room and that our budget will pay for the labor to have them installed. Our cook is on vacation this week, there is no lunch. Jay suggested the Friends be reminded to include their donations in their annual appeal letter.

Paul said he will attempt to get funding to keep our part-time outreach worker who is funded by our annual state grant which ends in June. It is unclear whether another grant or donation is possible or allowed to make this happen. There was discussion.

Director of Senior Services Report Wendy then entered the meeting. Wendy told of some recent events including a group tour of the new library, the obit writing class, our attendance at the annual hospital fair; coming events include bowling, group tour of Polly Hill, a class in organizing your home, a new stretch class taught by Ray Whitaker from the Y, a women's book group inspired by Chris (which is very popular), a trip to the North End with seniors from the Falmouth COA, and a boat rip on the Cape Cod Canal. There was discussion about our events and attendance. Jay asked about our conversation group. Wendy suggested Glenn lead one scheduled next week, using the topic "Touring the Island," on May 6th, and maybe take the group on an island tour. Glenn said he would do both- the conversation group next week and an island tour at some time in the future. There was discussion. Wendy then left. Kevin also left for a medical appointment and Co-chair Jay took over as chair of the meeting.

Outreach Report Victoria entered the meeting with Lyndsay Famariss our part-time outreach worker. Victoria said she was working on housing for three seniors who have to be out of their homes very soon. Chris suggested we call the new person at the county who is working on housing for the homeless. She also suggested calling the person developing the apartments at the Post Office Triangle. Lyndsay said the wait for affordable elderly housing is about three years. There was discussion. This year's MySeniorCenter outreach statistics were reviewed. Paul said outreach services have increased from last year.

Victoria reviewed two cases which involved immigration issues. Paul clarified we were not doing immigration advocacy, but helping seniors gather the information they need to complete various stages of the application process. There was further discussion about housing and our fuel assistance. Paul asked about Victoria's memory support group. She advised there were new attendees and the snowbirds had returned and that the group was very active.

Victoria told Chris we lost our restaurant meal delivery volunteer, so the program has been somewhat dormant. We will put some effort in finding replacements.

After more discussion, Lyndsay and Victoria left the room.

Center 4 Living Paul advised he recently attended the last Center 4 Living Board meeting. He said plans to relocate to the VNA building were progressing. The state legislature will pass bills allowing the county to renovate and lease the building to the C4L without the required bidding procedures. It is believed the renovations will not have to be extensive. The estimated date of completion and move is somewhere between six months and a year. Glenn asked how the Anchors will be used when the C4L leaves and two more days become available. Paul said he and Wendy are planning more activities, events, clubs and groups.

The next meeting is May 19, 2016.

There being no further business, upon motion by Chris, seconded by Glenn, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.