

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING
October 23, 2014
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Glenn Carpenter. Also present were Board members Jay Sigler, Chris White and Kevin Ryan; and Administrator Paul Mohair. Olga had advised she would be unable to attend.

Minutes Copies of proposed minutes from the September 25, 2014, meeting were distributed and read. Upon motion by Glenn, seconded by Kevin, the minutes as proposed were adopted unanimously.

Budget Paul distributed copies of the budget report with expenses as of October 15, 2014, and as reported by the town accountant and town bookkeeping system, MUNIS. Paul said there were no extraordinary expenses. There was discussion on a few items including the “new equipment” line item. Paul was asked about the miscellaneous line which is half spent. Paul said he would bring an itemized report of miscellaneous expenses to the next meeting.

Program and Volunteer Report Wendy then came to the meeting. She mentioned a number of events and programs happening in November, including the volunteer recognition luncheon, which will be very well attended, “Matter of Balance” classes are filled every Tuesday until the end of the year, the new Tai Chi is very popular, a group will go to the museum for the Nancy Luce exhibit, the Holiday Open House will be December 12th, the first day of the “Christmas in Edgartown” weekend. She said our derby fish distribution this month was a huge success. Wendy attended the annual Massachusetts Councils on Aging Conference in Falmouth earlier this month; she described some of the workshops and her ideas. She also talked about the Friends meeting she attended last week, two new Friends members, and the Friends’ plan to refinish the dining room floor over the holidays at the end of the year. Wendy reported a balance of over \$2,600 in our Special Account, which funds our lunch program. Wendy then left the meeting.

Outreach Report Paul asked Victoria to join the meeting. Victoria showed the Board an article and letter that appeared in the Vineyard Gazette recently about her support groups, which were very positive and complimentary about the stroke, memory loss, and caregivers support groups. Victoria said the groups were becoming more popular and increasing in size, providing valuable services where there once were none. The articles also called attention to Victoria and her work at the Edgartown COA. There was discussion.

Victoria talked about her outreach, case management and new clients.

At Paul’s request, Victoria described the Healthy Aging Taskforce. The Healthy Aging Task Force (HATF) is a subcommittee of the Dukes County Health Council, formed in 2013 to

strengthen the Health Council's Mission to create a supportive community for aging on the Vineyard. The HATF is a community coalition of people representing non-profit and municipal organizations serving the needs of elders on Martha's Vineyard. The goal of the HATF is to identify the needs of our growing elder population and develop collaborative programs to meet them. There was discussion.

Victoria said the Isola restaurant is on board with our senior meal program and will be providing a dinner for delivery soon. Victoria then left the meeting.

Friends of ECOA Report There was no one from the Friends present.

Administrator's Report Paul distributed a "Seniors Served" report reflecting the number of seniors served in selected programs for each of the last three fiscal years. The report did not show all served, but those in a number of the larger programs, such as lunches. Service is up in almost all categories, except for exercise, which has been decreasing. Our new Tai Chi class should help a bit with that; the assumption is the new YMCA has siphoned off a number of our exercise people. Answering Glenn, Paul said there were no complaints about ending our "to go" lunches and that many who did get to-go lunches are now coming in to sit down for our meals. Responding to Kevin's question, Paul attributed the large spike in telephone reassurance to a conscious allocation of the staff's time and resources toward Edgartown seniors who want to receive regular calls, including daily calls during hurricanes, storms, and snow storms. He said he, Wendy, and Victoria took home call lists and each made many calls last year, especially in inclement weather. He also thought more attention is being paid to recording and capturing this activity over the last year.

Chris suggested a phone list or tree whereby Edgartown seniors could call daily to check in on each other. Jay thought a volunteer could run such a program.

Paul said the Oak Bluffs COA is sponsoring a "COA Board Training" by the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) on April 29th of next year. Everyone expressed an interest.

MV Center for Living Leslie Clapp, who attended the meeting, reported on the MVC4L. She said the county plan is to purchase the ex-VNA building in Vineyard Haven and lease it to the C4L. There is much support from the county and towns at all levels. There will eventually be articles on all town warrants to fund a bond issue to pay for the building purchase. The C4L board will be laying much of the ground work for the appeal to the towns. The advantages of the VNA building were discussed. There was discussion.

At Glenn's request, Leslie explained the different island charitable food programs, including the surplus program administered through the C4L and island COAs. The Board wished Leslie good luck, thanked her for her report, and she left the meeting.

There being no further business, upon motion by Kevin, seconded by Jay, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:40 am.