

EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING
April 19, 2012
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:40am by Chairperson Nancy Shemeth. Present were Board members Judy Hathaway and Chris White; also attending were Madeline Fischer, the Friends of ECOA President, and Administrator Paul Mohair.

Friends of ECOA Report Madeline reported that the Friends are financially sound and have been helping to subsidize a local family's rent while they are relocated during a rehab project on their home. The Friends will make one more rent payment for the family. Madeline discussed other items the Friends have considered, including donations, the use of Friends' funds, and thoughts on ways to improve their support. There was also discussion about our new stove, the electrician's cost of the installation, and the possibility of the Friends assuming the expense. Madeline then left the meeting.

Minutes Upon motion by Judy, seconded by Chris, the March 15, 2012, Minutes were corrected so that the last sentence of the first paragraph under **Building Concerns** reads: "The installation makes the stove cost a few more thousand dollars over the purchase price." With that correction the Minutes were adopted unanimously.

Board Members Nancy said Judy will not seek to be reappointed to the Board and thanked her for her contributions and years of service as a Member and Co-chair. Nancy observed the Wasserman Report recommended Board members serve two terms, and then resign. Nancy said she believes Olga was sending a letter to the Town to be reappointed and will confirm this with Town Hall. Our By-laws provide that a Nominating Committee be chosen at this meeting to nominate new officers who will be elected at May's meeting. Judy and Chris will be the Nominating Committee and present a list of proposed officers next month.

Budget Paul distributed copies of the year-to-date budget report, including expenses and unspent balance. Paul said spending was in line with our budget. Paul reminded the Board that the amounts on the report are taken directly from the amounts entered on the Town's bookkeeping program, or "MUNIS," by our

accountants. Paul reminded the Board he has little discretion over salaries. He also said non-personnel expenses include almost \$45,000 per year for MVC4L staff, which leaves a non-personnel balance of about \$34,000 over which he has some leeway. He said we are about \$2,000 under spent right now, but he expects our total budget to be spent by the end of our fiscal year, June 30th. Nancy asked if we will have to allocate any non-personnel money to salaries this year. Paul said probably not, but if so, it will be a small amount, under \$1,000, for our outreach worker line item because of the two outreach workers employed contemporaneously for a few weeks last summer. There was discussion on the budget, spending, and the end of the fiscal year.

Paul advised that, at the town meeting this month, the warrant article for our annual budget passed, including the personnel funding to make our outreach worker full-time. Also approved, was about \$45,000 to paint and repair the Anchors' exterior. There was some discussion. Nancy suggested speaking to the Town procurement person to be sure the bid for the repair and paint project is properly bid. It was suggested that we wait until the fall to proceed with the work. Chris made a motion, seconded by Judy and approved unanimously, that the painting and repair as approved in the town warrant article be bid so that work can begin in the fall.

Program and Volunteer Report Laurie, the Director of Senior Services, joined the meeting to give her report. Laurie discussed a number of our programs and activities including the walking group, needle point, Nancy Lotz's class on adventurous famous people. Next month Dr. Landry is returning to speak at the Harbor View about the importance of socialization for seniors; we will be doing two programs in May: one, "The Way We Were," residents talking about favorite memories growing up in Edgartown, and the second, a panel discussion with Edgartown seniors and what it was like to be raised here. We are also showing two movies per month on our new TV. There are a number of trips scheduled in the near future, including traveling to Northborough Crossing for shopping, the Art in Bloom show at the Museum of Fine Art, a self tour at North End and Haymarket, and the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Our exercise programs were discussed. We will be taking our bike group on the Cape Shining Sea Bike Trail in May. Our foot clinic remains popular.

Laurie said she is also busy with her outreach; she has about five seniors that take

much of her time. Laurie said she helped deliver seventeen meals to seniors on Easter. She said there are two people taking the SHINE training who will serve Edgartown, so she will not have to. The Board thanked Laurie for her work and report and Laurie left the meeting.

Outreach Report Victoria joined the meeting to give her report. She observed she has now been our outreach worker for six months. Victoria said this last month was unusually busy in that she had referred five seniors to Elder Services who were need of some kind of support, and another five seniors to Protective Services who were at risk in some way, including danger from self-neglect or abuse and or neglect by a family member. Victoria said she recently convinced a hospital to drop a \$6,000 bill for an Edgartown senior cancer patient. She said she is also monitoring the situation with the brother and sister who are planning to go to Florida soon. Victoria also negotiated with the electric company, which agreed to not terminate service to a couple whom had not paid their bill and were substantially in debt. She also had the police break a window of a client's home to gain access, where they found her in bed with a broken hip.

There was discussion about the demand for Victoria's services and the limited hours she has within which to serve our seniors adequately. Everyone agreed her outreach services were extremely valuable to Edgartown and that her present 25 hour work week are insufficient. Nancy said Victoria should work more hours whenever it appears necessary and appropriate. We will either use non-personnel money to pay her extra hours or we will go to the Finance Committee for her extra pay, but Edgartown seniors should not continue to suffer or remain at risk if it can be avoided.

MVC4L Paul reported he attended the MVC4L Board meeting last week. In addition to some small summer fund raising events they intend to hire a part time administrative assistant who will have the responsibility of researching and securing grants for the purpose of developing a facility at the airport property site. There was discussion about partnering with other social services nonprofits on the island, perhaps, the Family Center. The pros and cons of such partnerships were discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.