

**EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**October 18, 2012**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 8:40am by Chairperson Olga Church. Present were Board members Chris White, Kevin Ryan, Nancy Shemeth, and Administrator Paul Mohair. Also present was prospective board member candidate, Glenn Carpenter. Olga welcomed Glenn and hoped he would join our Board.

**Minutes** Upon motion by Nancy, seconded by Chris, the minutes of the September 20, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Board Members** There was general discussion about the Board make up and Glenn possibly joining the Board. Olga said it is important to have local, informed people on the Board; Kevin observed it is not a demanding position, but one that requires people to come prepared to advocate on behalf of seniors. Nancy observed that transparency was of ultimate concern. Glenn said he was on the Library Board for two years and was unhappy with members' personal agendas. Chris explained this was a good group with no personal agenda or politics. Paul said there was one meeting a month, a little more than an hour long, and not much homework. There was general discussion. Glenn had no further questions.

**Friends of ECOA** Paul said Madeline had communicated that no one from the Friends would be at the meeting. There was discussion concerning the status and progress of the Friends' proposed renovation of the ground floor.

**Budget** Paul then distributed the year-to-date budget report for FY 2013. He reminded the Board that all the budget report figures come from the town's bookkeeping program and that the figures are entered by the town's accounting department. Paul explained he has no discretion over the staff salaries or the money expended to pay the salaries; and, although it is included in our budget, he also has no control over the money budgeted to and spent by the Center for Living. Accordingly, Paul's budget report has a separate line below total expenses that reports the Center for Living expenses separate and apart from our COA total budget. Previously, at one time, the Center for Living was included in our miscellaneous line item. There was general discussion about our expenses and the report. To answer Glenn's question, Paul said we have five employees; and that our outreach worker is also our custodian. Paul said there were no extraordinary expenses; there was some discussion.

**Program and Volunteer Report** Laurie then gave her report. She said all events were going very well, especially our lunches which are extremely popular. Ann Charnley, one of our new SHINE counselors, will speak next month on a book she wrote with Cokie Roberts about women who influenced the Founding Fathers. We have two new SHINE counselors who are busy with Medicare open enrollment. Dr. Lesley Segal is coming next month to give a presentation about hearing and hearing aids. The Long Point Five will play music on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The exercise programs are well attended; Paul showed the Board the exercise schedule rack cards we had

printed. We intend to distribute the cards to island doctors and other spots. Kevin asked about listings on Patch. Paul said he thought all weekly programs were listed on Patch. Laurie said she sends out program information regularly over email. Laurie said we have almost \$3,000 in our special account, money generated by exercise programs and lunches. She said we are also doing programs in the early evening to attract people that cannot come during the day. There was discussion about the annual state COA conference in Falmouth last week.

Victoria then came to the meeting to give her report. She is helping a family in which the father/husband is dying at home, the wife/mother may have some dementia; she had Elder Services do an assessment. The family has been very resistant to accepting any outside support services. Victoria has been meeting with Laura Murphy, the town nurse, to see what can be done to assist this family. Victoria has been working with Women Empowered and the VA to help some seniors with financial issues. Vineyard Scripts has also begun filling pillboxes for our clients. She also discovered full-time island residents must go off-island for dialysis treatment because there is none here year round. Presently, patients must go to Hyannis for the treatment. Solutions were discussed. Victoria described her training and experience at the annual MCOA conference. She is delivering surplus food to a number of families. Chris offered to send some food from her restaurant to a family in need. Kevin observed that a good program would be for every island restaurant to donate a certain number of meals every month to home-bound seniors which would be delivered by volunteers. Victoria is offering a class on writing one's own obituary next month. There was discussion. She then left the meeting.

**Administrator's Report** Paul said he was contacting sign makers on the island to make a sign for the entrance to our parking lot. There were suggestions for sign makers. He also said he had prepared all the necessary documents to publish the bid for invitations for the paint and repair of the Anchors exterior. He is waiting for the town procurement officer, Jen, to review and approve the documents. The bidding procedure was discussed. The ECOA telephone book listing was also discussed, since we do not appear in the white pages or conspicuously under the Edgartown government.

**Martha's Vineyard Center for Living Report** Paul said he attended the "Annual" MVC4L board meeting last Friday. Karen Achille was elected Board Chair. Karen had prepared a written report detailing the Center's attempts to secure funding for developing a facility at the airport. She said they would re-apply for a grant and she is talking to a contractor about possible modular construction to house their offices and social day program. They plan to apply without partnering with another agency, anticipating there is more chance of success. Olga said they will have to demonstrate they are a regional agency meeting a regional need and consequently need representatives from each island town.

Kevin said Karen had approached him about attending the monthly MVC4L meetings. There was discussion and general consensus Kevin should attend the meetings if he is able.

**New Business** There being no further business, upon motion by Chris, seconded by Nancy, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.