

**EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**March 21, 2013**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 8:40am by Chairperson Olga Church. Present were Board members, Glenn Carpenter, Nancy Shemeth, and Administrator Paul Mohair. Kevin Ryan arrived shortly after the meeting began. Also present was Karen Achille, Chairperson of the Martha's Vineyard Center for Living Board.

**Minutes** Upon motion by Glenn, seconded by Nancy, the minutes of the February 21, 2013, meeting were unanimously approved as proposed.

The Board agreed to take the MVC4L agenda item out of order so that Karen may give her report.

**MVC4L Report** Karen advised the Dukes County Commissioners are giving the Center for Living priority regarding financing and a permanent facility for its new home. Karen and Leslie have met with Martina, the new County Administrator, at least four times to review the Center's design, space and facility requirements. They have discussed a new building, modular construction and possible grants. Karen and Leslie have been strategizing the best way to approach and work with the commissioners in this regard. The present proposal is for the Center to lease the property and building from the County. It is not known whether the County will be required to put out a public bid for such a lease or can offer it to the Center exclusively. Regardless, Karen says, the Center is the County's first choice for a tenant. There was discussion about fund raising and other properties that have been considered. Nancy suggested Karen approach the Edgartown Selectmen to solicit their support for the County plan and to appear before the Commissioners. Karen assured the Board that she and Leslie were doing everything in their capacity to develop a facility for the MVC4L. Paul agreed to draft a letter on behalf of our Board in support of the Center's efforts with the County. The Board thanked Karen for her report and she then left the meeting.

**Board Members** Paul said he would call the town Clerk to learn where and when Glenn is to be sworn in as our new member.

**Budget** Paul distributed copies of the year-to-date budget report. All expenses and balances appeared reasonable; there was general discussion. There is a \$30,000 request which should be approved at the annual town meeting next month to pay for a new handicapped accessible ramp.

**Program and Volunteer Report** Laurie entered the room to give her report and talked about a few specific outreach cases. She said the lunches are extremely popular and that all programs

are well attended. The “Walking Camino de Santiago” presentation had 36 people in the audience. Other well attended programs include massages, walks, strength training, and foot clinics. Laurie mentioned a number of future programs and activities. She also said she has a new volunteer who wants to do friendly visits and will work in the kitchen. After some general discussion, Laurie left the room.

**Outreach Report** Victoria then joined the meeting. Victoria said her caseload has increased a bit since last month- she has about 37 clients, 10 of whom need regular attention. She was able to find fuel assistance for all the ones in need. Also, two families will have pizzas delivered for dinner this week through our restaurant senior meals program. There was general discussion about homelessness on the island. Victoria reported on the progress of her Memory Loss Support Group she is facilitating in partnership with the Island Counseling Center. The group meets privately once a week. There was discussion about a few of Victoria’s outreach cases and she then left the room.

**Friends of ECOA Report** No one from the Friends was present; Paul was at the Friends’ last meeting and gave an update on the Friends-sponsored drapes and renovations. Drapes and the picture hanging system have been approved and should be up before summer begins.

**Administrator’s Report** Paul said the town Finance Committee had recommended our proposed budget and money for a new handicapped accessible ramp to be approved at the annual town meeting, April 9<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion. Paul completed personnel evaluations for Laurie and Donna. Both were very good. He also attended the annual island Health Care Fair at the hospital which was successful, well attended. We were the only COA in attendance. Paul is negotiating with a contractor for a new sign for our parking lot entrance. There was general discussion on how well the department is functioning.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30am. There being no further business, upon motion by Kevin, seconded by Nancy, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:50am.