



EASTHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

COA Board Meeting 9/28/2023

COA Board Chair Joan Lockhart called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

COA Board Members Present: Paula Bruns, Carol DiBona, Cheryl Gayle, Beverly Hobbs, Joan Lockhart, Linda Reed, Richard Trimble, Pat Unish

FECO Board Members Present: Suzanne Barnhart, Terry Hendrix, Joanne Irish, Pat Lariviere

COA Staff Present: Dorothy Burritt, Monica Keefe-Hess

Community Members Present: Mindy Baransky

Minutes from August 24, 2023, were approved unanimously.

Directors Report:

- Dorothy reported an increase in units of service and individuals served across programs for the month of August 2023 compared to August of 2022.
- Dorothy provided an update on punch card sales. She noted that using punch cards to pay for a program series does not work well as they could be used for other programs instead. Terry and Dorothy decided that a program series should be paid for up front without the use of a punch card and punch cards will be used for exercise.
- Dorothy shared a letter from an Orleans resident who was unhappy with the increase in exercise fee for non-residents. Linda Reed noted that she has received a lot of negative feedback regarding charging for HIIT class. Some people have mentioned that they will no longer come to class. She also indicated that by charging \$5 per class we would be making a profit from the class and did not feel that should be our goal. Rich Trimble mentioned that if everyone had been making donations all along that the issue of charging would not come up. He does not necessarily think that we need to charge but we do need to be fiscally responsible.
- Joan Lockhart opened the issue of charging a fee for classes back up for discussion. Pat Lariviere mentioned that she is not in favor of charging for exercise classes as it is too important for the health and well-being of our seniors. Mindy Baransky provided information on the population of Eastham as over 60 percent seniors. She noted that the Eastham Senior Center provides services to over 44 percent of that population. She feels the budget for the COA is extremely low given the number of seniors in town using COA services. Cheryl motioned to suspend charging for the HIIT class for six months with the intention that there is a plan in place to generate the revenue needed. Rich Trimble seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Dorothy reported there were 12 no shows at the monthly free lunch. There have been no shows in the past but this week there was a significant increase. Rich Trimble recognized that there needs to be a system in place to remind people and asking them to call to cancel thereby allowing advance notice to people on waitlists to participate. Monica will send out a reminder call to registrants the Monday prior to luncheon. Another challenge to offering

the monthly free lunch is finding restaurants to provide the meals. Dorothy has reached out to several local restaurants to no avail. Many reported being short staffed.

Chairperson's Report:

- Joan welcomed Cheryl Gayle to the COA board.
- Joan listed the current priorities for the board are transportation, socialization, community outreach and the budgeting process. There are committees for each of the categories that need to re-engage and get back on track.

Committee Reports:

Elder Services

- Carol DiBona shared a new large-print brochure from Elder Services. Dorothy noted that we did not get the Elder Services grant for smart devices. Cheryl Gayle shared that we could ask for a review and get feedback on what could be done to make the grant application stronger.

Volunteers

- Linda Reed shared that we have one new volunteer who is available to help support Minday with tech classes. She is also available to help with medical rides and meal delivery.

Transportation

- The transportation committee has not yet had an opportunity to review the new transportation software program from My Senior Center. They will schedule a demonstration of the program for the committee and senior center staff.

FECOIA Updates

- Pat mentioned that they are still looking for volunteers to step up as President and Vice President for the FECOIA board. Pat and JoAnne will remain on the board in the interim. The Thrift Shop is doing well under the management of Jane Burritt and Mary Jane Eckel. JoAnne and Sue are working on increasing membership. Sue Barnhart provided an update on the membership drive. They are using Sir Speedy to send out a mass mailing in October which will target Eastham residents aged 59 and older. Terry shared that the Friends has already received more in membership dues at this point than they have all last year in total.
- Terry Hendrix provided the FECOIA financial report.

Guest Presenter: Jacqueline Beebe

- Jacqui shared the proposed formal reorganization plan. The proposed plan includes creating a community services department with the council on aging and beach and recreation falling under that umbrella and eventually a new human services division. This would include hiring a social worker for human services. The three department heads would report to the new community services director. Terry and Joan both noted that these positions are being renamed as coordinator instead of director. They both felt that the title does not reflect the responsibilities of department head and urged Jacqui to reconsider those title changes when implementing the formal reorganization.
- Jacqui also talked about the ARPA grant which includes funding for a regional health and behavioral health grant. The town received \$381,000 from the county to do a pilot two-year program to see if we can provide services that are necessary to the community that are shared with the towns of Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet and Eastham. Eastham is the lead agency and handles the contracts with the providers. This will fund a behavioral health

clinician. A licensed social worker will be available for up to 6 to 10 visits for emergencies in the community to help get referrals out to more consistent services. The other elements are the hiring of a town nurse and a network coordinator. The behavioral health and nursing will be contracted through Outer Cape Health.

- Rich Trimble raised the issue of bringing certain areas of the current COA building into compliance with ADA standards, recognizing that we are 6 to 7 years out before moving to a community center. Jacqui indicated that the town is working with a company to do an ADA assessment on all town buildings. In the meantime, she suggested that the board compile a list of what specifically is high priority.

Old Business:

- Terry Hendrix invited a discussion on how to spend the rest of the project refresh funds. Joan mentioned that we will come up with a short-term list of some things that we might want to use the money for and then we can reallocate the rest.

New Business:

- Dorothy and Paula discussed a week of veteran's events to take place leading up to the veteran's day holiday.

Carol DiBona motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 pm. Rich Trimble seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The next board meeting will be in the Earle Mountain Room at the Town Hall on Thursday, October 26th at 9:30 am.

Respectfully,

Monica Keefe-Hess