

WILLIAMSBURG COA Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes -- February 28, 2018

Board members present: Jacqueline Dufresne, Daria D'Arienzo and **Associate member**, Larry West --
Quorum: No.

Staff: Marie Westburg, Sherry Loomis, Fran Goebel

Meeting commenced at 12:23 pm.

Approval of January Minutes: Tabled, as no quorum

Marie said she'd be presenting the Quarterly Report to the Selectboard on 3/1 at 6 pm. She said it would be nice to have members there back her up. She said that MCOA & EOEA are requesting people to send emails and letters to politicians regarding funding. Discussion held on the need for a task force & possibly a list serve list of supporters like "friends of the Williamsburg Senior Center". It was suggested that a simple email list called "Living Well Supporters" could be made up for the purpose of advocacy, named after the Living Well Newsletter.

Jacqueline brought up an article she saw in the Boston Globe about Russell, MA getting a fitness center in their town. Russell is a pretty small town, maybe that would be a good model for us to get one. **Discussion highlights:** Boomers don't want to be "seniors"; it would be great to have the senior center and grade school close to each other for cross-generational activities; Williamsburg no longer qualifies for CDBG grants; our budget structure is "sound"; zoning is being adjusted in town; we need funding to cover cleaning, maintenance, and other things to minimize health risks; the need for activities and services to draw more people. Many of these issues are covered by or relate to the Smart Growth program.

Paul Dunphy has resigned from the board (Nan Winninger had changed to Associate Member earlier) so there is a need to recruit two new members. Two names mentioned: Norma Whitley and J.M. Sorrell (the PVTA rep in town). Marie will contact them with procedure for joining.

Marie will be starting a focus group of drivers and companions to use as an exchange of information and ways to improve service and get more people involved. She said PVTA is cutting their budget and will be reducing service to the area and we need creative solutions to get people out and participating. She met with the CDC, Charlene, Bill Sayer & PVTA's J.M. Sorrell. Our trip program is now to be scheduled, sign up a driver, and the driver issues invitations to those who sign up or show interest. Drivers will set time of pick-up etc.

Strategic planning is scheduled for March. Hope is done in April, the board agreed to wait for Dylan Sussman to be available because he is familiar with the issues

Bagshare has been initiated in the Meekins Library.

Other Business:

Daria brought up an article on "Fidget Quilts", which is a project that could be done along with or separate from the bag-sew. They are small laptop busy quilts or sensory quilts to pass out at events. She passed out copies of the article. Another sewing group is working on the Town Flag, recently designed, to be used for the 250th Town Celebration. Larry brought up the facebook interest in Historical photos being shown. He thought it might be a good idea to print some of these pictures for a notebook of town history with a place for notes by each one. People could make comments by the pictures, which would be a lasting reminder of them. Sherry said she'd work on that.

Next Meeting: 3/21 at 12/15 pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marie Westburg, Director,
Sherry Loomis (minutes)