

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES May 10, 2016

Present: COA Carolyn Bottum, Director, Marilyn Buckler, Ben Horne, Sally Kindleberger, Don Milan, Trish MGeen, Florence Montgomery, Donna Rizzo, Mary Sheldon, Dot Taylor, Dilla Tingley  
FLOCA Walter Bossert, Avram Kalisky, Joe O'Brien, Beth Ries, Sue Stason, Harriet Todd, Cheryl Wilson, Nancy Zuelke, Harold McAleer  
GUESTS Tim Higgins, Renel Fredriksen, , Karen Seo

**Discussion with Tim Higgins and Renel Fredriksen**

**Community Center** – Tim commented that Town Leaders are interested in moving both the Community Center and the School Building projects forward. They are pleased with the Campus Masterplan Study Committee Report indicating the campus can accommodate the addition of a Community Center. In April the School Committee resubmitted to the MSBA. He outlined several scenarios for next March's Town Meeting. Whether or not we are accepted into the MSBA process (hope to know by end of year), the Town should be informed about the merits and costs of both projects and we should consider asking for funds for a schematic design for the Community Center (CC). Then, best case, we might be able to go for full funding the following year. There is considerable support for a CC – Bemis is not suited to the functions of a modern COA, the Parks And Rec are reaching critical mass and there is more and more interest in intergenerational programming. It is currently seen as impractical to use a CC building for swing space for school classes during a school building project. Asking for CC funds at the next TM would get all policy boards tuned in. Whatever path is chosen Tim assured us that the COA Board would have a seat at the table.

**COA Staffing** Carolyn Bottum stressed that as COA programs and services increase to fill the needs of a growing senior population there is a real need for administrative support. We currently have a position for 20 hours funded under a federal grant. We thought it would last 4 years, but the federal program is encouraging these staff people to move every year. We would like to include funds for this position in the Town Budget to ensure that we can maintain this support. Tim said that the good news is that the Town has been very careful managing the headcount of employees. We have maintained a Full Time Equivalent of 80 for the past 25 years. So when we ask the Town for more they will see it as a real need. It would also help if the cost could be partially defrayed with funds from the Friends of the COA and/or the Codman Trust.

**Lincoln Woods** - Tim expressed how important Lincoln Woods is to providing housing diversity in Lincoln and the fact that all 125 units count toward our Chapter 40B inventory. Major renovations are underway and there have been citizen complaints about unfair treatment. Our new Town Planner, Jennifer Burney, has stepped forward as an ombudsman and has held 3 or 4 meetings with the developer, the project manager and the tenants. The original construction firm has been replaced. The project refinancing has also resulted in increased rents at all 3 levels. In some cases residents need to update their eligibility verification forms. The Town is working to help them.

**Diversity Forum** – The forum was a huge success with about 85 participants many of whom expressed a desire for more connection between generations.

**Tour of Remodeled Bemis Basement.** We had the opportunity to see the new function room, handicapped accessible bathrooms, offices for Susan Isbell and counseling, and beautiful new space for the book sale. We should be able to occupy in a week or so and it will be an excellent interim help for our space needs until we have a new Community Center.

**Regular COA Agenda**

**Minutes:** The Minutes for the April 12 COA Board meeting, and the Joint Meeting of the Friends and the COA were approved.

**Calendar:** Carolyn reviewed the highlights for the June calendar.

**Clinics** – Dot reported clinics are fine

**Trips-** Donna listed the upcoming trips

**Minuteman Senior Services** – Dilla announced the new Executive Director is Kelly McGee Wright.

**Housing Commission** – Mary had nothing new to report.

**The Strawberry Ice Cream Social** is scheduled for Thursday June 16. Trish passed around a volunteer signup. Pray that there will be fresh native strawberries at Verrill. COSTCO is the backup.

Adjourned at 4:05.

Submitted by Dilla