



# TOWN of LINCOLN

## Council on Aging & Human Services

*c/o Town Offices  
16 Lincoln Road  
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773  
Phone (781) 259-8811*

### Board Meeting Minutes February 8, 2021

*Virtual Meeting Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order, as extended on June 15, 2021, with the Governor's signing of Senate Bill #2475, Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.*

**Board Members Present:** Laura Crosby, Sally Kindleberger, Wendy Kusik, Donald Milan, Florence Montgomery, Kathy Ramon, Jane O'Rourke, Terry Perlmutter, Dilla Tingley (Chair), Peter Von Mertens, Hope White. Absent: Donna Rizzo.

**Staff:** Abigail Butt (COA&HS Director), Amy Gagne (COA&HS Assistant Director)

**Other Attendees:** Collette Sizer (Minute-taker)

**Welcome:** Dilla Tingley called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and Abigail Butt took roll call. Donna Rizzo was absent. Dilla welcomed the newest member, Peter Von Mertens.

#### Approval of January 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Dilla noted that two corrections should be made to the January 11, 2022 meeting minutes.

- Abigail offered to make those changes.
- Terry Perlmutter moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jane O'Rourke seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

#### Liaison Reports:

##### **Housing Commission Meetings** (*Victoria Benalfew, not present*)

Abigail commended the Housing Commission for doing a great job of collaborating with the COA&HS.

- The Housing Commission is a sponsor for the Lincoln Rental Assistance Program. A request for \$60,000 plus administrative fees from the Community Preservation Act were requested, which has been approved by the Community Preservation Commission and will now be voted on at Annual Town Meeting.
- Dilla noted that The Section 8 Housing Voucher Program is underfunded. She wrote to a senator to see if there are other funds available to support it. She suggested that there be a better lobbying effort. Abigail suggested that Dilla reach out to head of the Housing Commission, Allen Vander Meulen.
- Abigail noted that she had been invited to a Housing Coalition meeting. COA&HS may be invited to participate in future Housing Coalition meetings.
- Peter asked about the COA&HS final request to the Community Preservation Fund. Abigail replied that she had requested \$60,000 and money to cover MetroWest admin fees.

##### **Trip Committee** (*Donna Rizzo*)

Via email update: No report.

##### **Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS)** (*Wendy Kusik*)

Wendy Kusik spoke about recent MMSS humanitarian activities.

- MMSS used a relief fund to help a woman who had lost her home. They also helped victims of a recent fire in Arlington.
- MMSS had recently received additional funds from the American Resue Plan Act (ARPA) but struggle to hire caregivers.
- MMSS has a virtual fun run fundraiser scheduled for May 1-8.
- There is a discussion on Nutrition and Aging scheduled for Feb 15 which can be accessed virtually.

##### **SHINE** (*Don Milan*)

No Report.

##### **Diversity Initiative** (*Florence Montgomery, Hope White*)



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- Hope White summarized events taking place in February, Black History Month. She noted that [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com) has many virtual events planned.
  - Feb 7-28 – Boston Globe’s Black History Month Film Festival
  - Feb 10 – “The Sound of the Soul” at Berklee College
  - Feb 10 – Anita Hill will talk about her book “Believing: Our Thirty-Year Journey to End Gender Violence.”
  - Feb 18 – Documentary on Fannie Lou Hamer’s America
  - Feb 28 – Boston Public Library virtual book discussion about “The Color of Abolition”
  - Playing through end of March, the Huntington Theater presents “The Bluest Eye” based on Toni Morrison’s novel.
  - Feb 23 - The Boston African American Museum is offering a special documentary screening, “Jubilee, Juneteenth and the Thirteenth”
- Dilla noted that some ARPA funds are being considered for use for initiatives related to diversity.
  - This includes funds for an interested teacher to take a year off from teaching duties and lead the school’s diversity initiative.
  - Funds are being considered to pay for a consultant to lead a town-wide diversity initiative, headed up by the IDEA committee.
- Florence reviewed a list of books. A book list was sent to the board prior to the meeting.
  - Bemis is now open, and people can browse the book selection and borrow books.
  - Florence noted that there is a print-out of an interview with Krista Tippet.
  - She emphasized that Valentine’s Day is a time to remember that interracial marriage was not always accepted. It was legalized in the US in 1967.

### **COA&HS anti-racism, Diversity, & Inclusion Initiative (Abigail Butt)**

- Kelly Cross, MSW intern, is in the process of taking all the edits to the COA&HS policy and procedures manual and making the necessary changes. Once edits are made, it will be shared for review.
- Abigail noted that “Chinese New Year” [that occurred this year in February] is more appropriately called the “Lunar New Year.” When we refer to it as the Chinese New Year, we exclude many other Asian nations and cultures that also celebrate the Lunar New Year.
- Abigail noted that she had been attending recent programs that discuss redlining and Lincoln’s exclusionary policies of the past. Most of the people attending the meetings are seniors.

### **Announcements/Director’s Report – Abigail Butt – see the director’s report**

#### **Social Services Update**

- DEI update – see above
- “Box of Happiness” Project – Abigail noted the continued support of the Lincoln Girl Scouts.
  - The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have continued delivering free sand and salt buckets to any senior who request on every winter. They refill the buckets if seniors run out.
  - To thank them, Friends of COA bought 60 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. The Girl Scouts and Property Tax Work off volunteers delivered the cookies to seniors.
- COVID testing kits – COA&HS is giving out free rapid COVID test kits.
  - These were purchased by the town.
  - Anyone that worries they have been put at risk, has been a close contact, or is symptomatic can have one.
- Boston Post Cane –Abigail explained that Boston Post Canes were given to two residents who just turned 100.
  - The canes are made from hardwood and are ebony and gold. The practice was started in early 1900s as a publicity stunt by the Boston Post. The canes were given to New England towns to give to their oldest male resident. Women won their right to receive the cane as of the 1930s.



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- Barbara Davis and Jane Bartter, active Lincolnites, were given the canes. They are still involved and living in the community. Both women served during World War 2.

### **Noteworthy Programming**

- Coming back - The COA&HS Legal Clinic and Noticing Walks with John Calabria.
- Abigail reminded the board that the Council on Aging is tasked with providing 4 core services: social services, programs & activities, transportation, and nutrition.
  - The Lincoln COA&HS has not been able to fulfill its responsibilities regarding nutrition. Lincoln does not have a congregate meal program.
  - Abigail and Amy Gagne have been working towards this goal. Amy is now Serve Safe certified to oversee meals.
  - COAs in most communities partner with other groups, e.g. school lunch programs, Meals on Wheels.
  - MMSS' Meals on Wheels program recently lost their kitchen and relocated to First Parish Church across from Bemis Hall.
    - Abigail and Amy have investigated working with MMSS to provide a regular congregate meal program every Friday. The cost would be \$2.00 per senior. The Friends of the COA board have agreed to sponsor the first month of meals.
    - First Parish Church asked for \$50/day for the days people would be dining at that location. MMSS will cover the cost.
    - Amy is working on programs to be held at Bemis following the Friday meals at First Parish. They are working out the details and are waiting for final approval and the program is slated to potentially begin in March.
- AARP tax appointments are on-going. The earned new senior earned-income tax credit is now available. Most people that qualify legally have to file taxes and lose out on this money without assistance from the tax aide program.
- Fifty lunch boxes will be available for dine in or pick-up on February 18 at 11:30 a.m.
- Special programming this month includes Marth Lufkin on Friday, February 11 at noon reading from her latest book of newspaper humor columns and a program on American Music History on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Both programs are via Zoom.
- On March 4 at 1:00 p.m. (Zoom) Prof. Ron Chester and Irene Sedgwick Briedis are sponsoring a program on the Mumbet and Quoc Walker cases. Her ancestor, Theodore Sedgwick, an attorney helped Mumbet secure her freedom by supporting her legal case.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Status of the New Community Center***

Nothing of note.

### **New Business**

No New Business reported.

**Adjournment:** Dilla called for a motion to adjourn. Sally Kindleberger so moved, and Laura Crosby seconded. The Motion to Adjourn passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:12.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**March 8, 2022, at 1:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted, Collette Sizer, Minute Taker, February 9, 2022