



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: Wendy Kusik, Donald Milan, Florence Montgomery, Jane O'Rourke, Terry Perlmutter, Kathy Ramon, Donna Rizzo, Dilla Tingley (Chair), Peter Von Mertens, Hope White.

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

Other Attendees: Collette Sizer (Minute-taker)

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dilla Tingley called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and Abigail Butt took roll call. Laura Crosby and Sally Kindleberger were absent.

February 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Dilla asked for any corrections to the February 8 meeting minutes.

- Terry Perlmutter noted a few misspellings.
- Kathy Ramon moved to approve the minutes as amended. Peter Von Mertens seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Liaison Reports

Housing Commission Meetings (Terry Perlmutter)

Abigail updated the group on the Housing Commission.

- The Commission is very dedicated to make housing equitable in Lincoln and would like better representation from seniors and affordable housing on the committee.
- Terry volunteered to be the COA&HS representative to the Housing Commission and will report back to the COA&HS Board going forward.

Trip Committee (Donna Rizzo)

The Group is meeting March 10 to continue with planning.

- A trip is booked to Long Hill on May 18.
- Tickets are available for the June production of 1776 the Musical. The committee is planning a bus trip with lunch.

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS) (Wendy Kusik)

- MMSS will still be wearing masks even if COA&HS does not require it.
- MMSS is addressing social isolation by giving out Clarus Companion smart tablets. They provide easy one button connections to, for example, COA. It is also possible to download the Clarus Companion App to any tablet.
- They have a vaccine booster campaign and are sending emails to a list of towns on how to access the vaccine. Lincoln was taken off the list because the clientele we are vaccinated.
- MMSS will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their Senior Nutrition program in March and they are looking for people to drive.
- Outreach materials are being sent in Chinese, Russian and Spanish to include those who are not fluent in English.



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SHINE (*Don Milan*)

- Shine Counselors have been taking in-person visits. The workload is quieter since open enrollment ended.
- The state is asking the Shine Counselors to help with Medicaid request assistance.
 - It is a much bigger responsibility and more complicated.
 - Other communities rely on local hospital Shine counselors on staff.
 - Abigail suggested that COA&HS might ask Emerson hospital to provide help, but they may only have MassHealth Connector counselors on staff.

Diversity Initiative (*Florence Montgomery, Hope White*)

Hope White reviewed upcoming events that feature black speakers, black art and theater.

- Dr. Thea James, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Boston Medical Center/Boston University will discuss how they have handled vaccines and COVID.
- The Bluest Eye, based on the Toni Morrison novel, is playing at the Huntington Theater through March 26, 2022. Discount tickets are available on goldstar.com.
- The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is showcasing an exhibit through the end of April. The museum also has some free evenings online. The Lincoln Library has passes available for events.

Florence Montgomery presented her book review – *please see the summary in the March 7 email meeting invite*

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

- Kelly Cross, the MSW intern, is still working on edits to the COA&HS policy and procedures manual.
- John Clark's presentation, "Abolition to Civil Rights: American Music History" was very well received. COA&HS will bring him back for part II.

Announcements/Director's Report (*Abigail Butt*) - *see the Director's Report*

Social Services Update/Nutrition Update

- The four categories of service any Council on Aging should provide its community are: social services, programming, transportation, and nutrition. The congregate dining program has been established and will start April 8, 2022.
 - Friends of COA&HS will pay for the first month of meals (\$2/meal at First Parish).
 - Amy Gagne is working on Lincoln Academy programming that will be tied in.
 - MMSS will pay First Parish for utilizing the space and provide the dining site coordinator.
 - Protocol for COVID will not require masks, but the meals will be served in a large hall that allows distancing and ventilation.
 - COA&HS will need drivers to provide transportation. Dilla offered to drive.
 - Other volunteers will be needed. Kathy, Florence, and Terry offered to help. Abigail Butt is soliciting volunteers from other groups as well.
 - Over time the program will look to be environmentally friendly, i.e., compostable materials/compost program established for paper products.
 - COA&HS is also offering daily coffee at Bemis Hall and encouraging people to drop in.
- Funding & March 26 Town Meeting
 - The ARPA Funding request was approved, and Carlee Castetter will be on staff fulltime in June.
 - A preferred budget items pertaining to wages for Carlee and Amy will be voted on at the Town Meeting.
 - Tim Higgins has asked the COA&HS to attend the Town meeting. There will be a vote on whether to assemble a building committee and continue with planning for the community center.
 - Abigail and Dilla will both plan to speak.
 - COA will not reach out to other interested community groups. Town Administrator's Office and Parks & Rec will contact them.



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- The Town meeting will be held in the theater auditorium at the school. There are parking spaces to the front of the parking lot for those who need them.
- There will be Zoom presentations ahead of the Town Meeting on major items

Noteworthy Programming – see the *Director's Report and News From Bemis Hall March 2022*

- Special Zoom events in March
 - The Mumbet and Quock Walker Cases: The Legal End to Slavery in MA, on Friday, March 4 was well attended and will be offered.
 - Meditation with Lynne La Spina on Friday, March 11 at 1:00PM is an on-going program.
 - A Gropius House Virtual Tour with Wendy Hubbard will take place on Friday, March 18 at 1:00PM. Free hearing screens on podiatry day or can sign up. March 22
- May 1 – Mass Cultural Counsel will present Murder a La Carte by Delvena theater.

Old Business

Status of the New Community Center – see minutes above on the vote to continue with the community center initiative

New Business

- Florence asked if the front desk at Bemis Hall was being adequately staffed. The job requires some skill/experience and Abigail has a waiting list of people from the Tax Work-off Program that can fill vacancies.
- Abigail addressed question regarding future in-person meetings of COA&HS.
 - The town has suggest that meetings may remain virtual until June.
 - It is probable that the future meetings will be a hybrid of in-person and Zoom.
 - A restarting the joint COA & FLCOA annual pizza lunch meeting sounded fun and will be planned for June.

Adjournment: Dilla called for a motion to adjourn. Wendy so moved, and Don Milan seconded. The Motion to Adjourn passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

April 12, 2022, at 1:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Sizer, Minute Taker
March 10, 2022