

## **COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING**

DATE: March 9, 2021—2:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order  
Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Board members present: Dilla Tingley (Chair), Laura Crosby (Vice-Chair), Dan Boynton (Recorder), Donna Rizzo (Trip Committee), Sally Kindleberger (provides humor at the meetings and volunteers for difficult tasks), Don Milan (SHINE services), Florence Montgomery and Hope White (Diversity Initiative), Jane O'Rourke, and Terry Perlmutter.

Staff: Abigail Butt, PhD, COA Director; Amy Gagne, Assistant Director

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Dilla individually polled members of the board and each affirmed their presence. Dilla called the meeting to order and board members voted in the affirmative.

**Approval of minutes:** Dilla made a motion that the LCOA minutes of February 9th, 2021 be approved, and all board members present voted unanimously to approve these minutes.

### **Announcements/Director's Report:** Abigail Butt

**WIDE training:** WIDE stands for Welcome Inclusion Diversity Equity. WIDE is offering a three-session training open to members of all Lincoln organizations, boards and departments who are looking to deepen their knowledge and develop skills in the practice of anti-racism. This virtual series is led by Kathy Lopes, LICSW and invites participants to explore individual biases, cultural messages, and institutional structures that hold racism in place. The trainings will be held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9pm on March 25, April 29 and May 13.

Abigail said we already have three people from the Friends Board who have volunteered to attend, and she was seeking three more volunteers from this Board, and the other Departments to attend. Jane, Sally, Dilla and Hope raised their hands. Terry said she was willing to be an alternate. Florence volunteered as well. Hope said there was no limit to participants at this training. Dilla suggested that we add this issue to our Liaison Reports. Jane volunteered to be the WIDE meeting Liaison.

**VSO Update:** Peter Harvell, Veteran's Services Officer has reported that there are currently four Lincoln residents receiving chapter 115 benefits for indigent veterans. Abigail said, "you need to be really on the bare bones of income to be a participant in the program, and between four and six is what Lincoln should have based on its size, so it seems like we are where we should be. There are 19 Lincoln residents who have perished in battle that are eligible for the Medal of Liberty. Peter Harvell has located between 16 and 18 of these survivor recipients, and on Memorial Day of this year, the tentative plan is to have a celebration, where we hand out the Medal of Liberty to survivor recipients at the Pierce House. People are coming from all over the country to receive this award."

**Ice Cream “Un-Social”:** Abigail said the ice cream “unsocial” was an enormous success. We served 82 individuals and 24 of whom were in the under 60 category. The COA will have a second ice cream “unsocial” on March 16<sup>th</sup>, but this time some of the Friends are volunteering to deliver ice cream cups to homebound individuals. Terry, Dilla, Laura and Sally wanted to add their names to the list of ice cream deliverers. Hope volunteered to distribute ice cream at the church.

**Covid Clinic Update:** The Town has completed two 1st dose clinics and will be holding our second dose clinics on March 11 and April 1. We have partnered with the Lincoln Family Association to make our second dose clinics memorable. They will be providing an encouraging banner for photo ops done in the style of Rosie the Riveter.

**Food safety and Sanitation training:** Congratulations to Florence Beaudry, Beverly White, and Amy Gagne for successfully completing Minuteman’s Food Safety and Sanitation training. All three participants passed the exam and will receive certificates. Our kitchen is not certified but we could schedule a picnic outside.

**Bemis Reopening Status:** Yesterday Waltham Pest Control gave us the clean bill of health. So, we are now officially rodent free. Abigail has been checking with our other regional Council on Agings because we all need to open up around the same time, so that we don't accidentally inundate each other with our residents. Everyone is thinking of starting their programming late April beginning of May, with most programs being done outside the building. We are trying to make our rooms Zoom ready by getting some tablets and some cameras, so we can do hybrid programming, as necessary.

Abigail then announced that she was leaving the meeting and that Amy would cover the March Programming Calendar. However, before Abigail left the building, Amy wanted to let Board Members know that Abigail does her full-time hours in the COA office and at her home, and in particular she had handled a lot of the painful calls when seniors were calling about the cancellation of our local Covid vaccination clinic.

Dilla said, “I think you all did such a wonderful job setting up the clinics and then, when they pulled the vaccines out from under us, I could not believe it.” Sally added, “It's not very helpful for people who can't travel a huge distance to Gillette or that baseball place” (Fenway Park).

### **March Programming Calendar:**

**Rev. Liz Walker:** Thank you to friends of LCOA and Lincoln Library for the support to sponsor Rev. Liz Walker. We have received very positive feedback about her talk that was held on February 17th. The webinar consisted of over 70 participants, and the recording has been placed on the Town Website.

**Chat with the Nurse:** Trish has increased her chat with the nurse to twice a month, and this is someone who's doing this contact tracing for the town.

**Zoom with Andy Payne:** This has gotten more popular because more people are Zooming, and he is a funny guy. He does a great job and that's there's a lot of good feedback. He is doing that twice for March.

**Connections Program:** Joanna Schwartz is running a third session where L.S.H.S. students are paired with seniors that would like to have a weekly email, phone call, Zoom meeting, or pen pal letters. Individuals who participated in previous sessions said they have learned a lot and they are glad they participated.

**Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman:** A Creative Kinship Talk: Edith Wharton's first published work was not a novel, but a design manual that she co-authored with Lincoln native, Ogden Codman, Jr. The seminal book, The Decoration of Houses, was destined to become an interior design classic. Using original letters from Historic New England's Codman archival collection, this illustrated talk offers an inside peek into Wharton's and Codman's artistic friendship, which spanned more than forty years.

**Paul Revere Monument:** This special zoom webinar will be scheduled the day after Patriots Day, April 20 at 11am. Details will be in the April newsletter.

**In Person Exercise:** Starting the first week of May, at Pierce House on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we will have STRECH and FLEX at 11 am and ACTIVE AGING at 12 noon and then Katrina Rotondi will start outdoor LINE DANCING sessions Wednesdays at 1pm. We are in talking about the possibility of having an iPad and simultaneously streaming these sessions on Zoom so that people who are homebound are able to participate.

We handed out a police brochure about scam calls at the vaccine clinics. Lincoln residents have been receiving calls from scammers pretending to be their grandchildren and asking for money. Unfortunately, some Lincoln elders have sent money to these fake grandchildren. Our April newsletter will include an article from the Lincoln chief of police warning us to watch for the top 10 scams.

### **Liaison Reports:**

1. **Report on recent trips and trips planned for the future** – Donna Rizzo  
Donna said, "Nothing to report."
2. **Report on SHINE counselors meeting and update on SHINE services** – Don Milan  
Don reported that he had been receiving very few calls and that he had been transferring them over to Rhonda and Craig, so they get some experience, being new Shine counselors.
3. **Report on Diversity Initiative** – Florence Montgomery/Hope White  
Florence reported that the Lincoln Library had chosen the book The Color of Law by

Richard Rothstein for their third in the program "Reading for Racial Justice". The Lincoln Land Conservation Trust has a series of black speakers who are interested in nature and Florence said that she had read the book The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature by J. Drew Lanham. He is a person who is very interested in nature and his place in it. Florence said "I discovered an article by Sandra Guzman, an Audubon journalist. It is called Remembering Toni Morrison, the Bird Whisperer, and it's about her home and how she watched birds. It will be at Bemis in our collection. Ray Shepard's talk about his book, Runaway: The Daring Escape of Ona Judge who was a slave, owned by George Washington and his wife, was also mentioned.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Status update of new bench:** Laura Crosby

Laura reminded the Board that the Friends had agreed to pay for the new bench. Laura sent an email to Abby outlining the steps she needed to take in order to process the purchase and this will be a priority for the next week.

#### **Status update of new community center:** Dilla Tingley

Dilla said we are in a holding pattern while we wait for the school project to be finished.

**New Business:** There was no new business to come before the board.

**Adjournment:** Dilla made a motion to adjourn, and all board members voted unanimously by raised hands to end the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2021