



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 April 12, 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, Donald Milan, Florence Montgomery, Jane O'Rourke, Terry Perlmutter, Kathy Ramon, Donna Rizzo, Dilla Tingley (Chair), Peter Von Mertens.

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 1:04 p.m. and Abigail Butt took roll call. Wendy Kusik and Hope White were absent.

Roll Call:

Laura Crosby	Aye
Sally Kindleberger	Aye
Florence Montgomery	Aye
Jane O'Rourke	Aye
Terry Perlmutter	Aye
Kathy Ramon	Aye
Donna Rizzo	Aye
Dilla Tingley (Chair)	Aye
Don Milan	Aye
Peter Von Mertens	Aye

March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Dilla asked for any corrections to the March 8 meeting minutes. Several corrections were advised. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.
- *Action Item:* Abigail to make corrections to the minutes.

Liaison Reports

Housing Commission Meetings (Terry Perlmutter)

Terry has attended two meetings and will keep the group posted.

Trip Committee (Donna Rizzo)

A trip is booked to Long Hill on May 18.

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS) (Wendy Kusik)

No report.



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SHINE (Don Milan)

Rhonda Swain contacted Emerson Hospital to ask if they can provide a Shine counselor to help with MassHealth Premium Assistance once a month.

Diversity Initiative (Florence Montgomery, Hope White)

Florence Montgomery presented her book review. Abigail distributed the complete review by email on April 12. The report informs on the following pieces in the COA&HS collection:

- A booklet with a biography of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.
- A New York Times article by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Andrew S. Curran, "We Need a New Language for Talking about Race".
- A short print-out with a remembrance of Madeleine Albright written by her family. She died late March. She discovered as an adult that her parents were Jewish.
- The obituary of Paul Farmer, put out by the Guardian, and principles, held by Partners in Health. A celebration of Paul Farmer's life was held in Boston on March 12.
- A collection of three centuries of African American poets for April Poetry Month including [I, Too, Sing America](#).
- Earth Day and Arbor Day books including a booklet on the Holocaust.
- A new print-out booklet remembering 8-year-old Martin Richards for Patriot's Day, April 18, 2022.
- Books on Ramadan, Passover, and Easter.

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

- Kelly Cross, the MSW intern, has completed the edits to the COA&HS policy and procedures manual.
- Abigail will go through it again and COA&HS staff, FLCOA, and COA members who completed the WIDE training will convene to talk about the edits and next steps.

Announcements/Director's Report (Abigail Butt) - *see the Director's Report April 2022*

Social Services Update/Nutrition Update

Water Service Fee/Base Rate Waiver:

On March 17, 2022, the Board of Water Commissioners voted in favor of a water discount for qualifying residents beginning July 1, 2022.

- The Assessor's Office is also helping. Residents who qualify for a property tax exemption, regardless of age, is eligible for an automatic one-year waiver of the \$50.00/quarter water service fee.
- Residents who have been given the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit via MA Income Tax Return are also eligible.
- Abigail explained, in response to questions about condo housing situations, that only dwellings that are individually metered are eligible at this time, though the goal is to include condo owners in the future.
 - In the interest making sure the waiver was started benefiting residents as soon as possible, it was voted on and passed.
 - Future meetings will address how assistance can be given to Condominium Owners. This will involve administrative burden and some work untangling how it can be administered to these not individually metered water accounts.
- Working with COA&HS on AARP tax preparation during tax season will help seniors identify whether they qualify for exemptions via the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.
- An information piece regarding the exemption will be inserted in an upcoming water bill.



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- Special guests at the Senior dine-in on Friday, April 22 include Darin LaFalam, the Water Superintendent, Ruth Ann Hendrickson, a member of the Board of Water Commissioners, and Jim Hendrickson, on the Select Board and previously on the Board of Water Commissioners.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:

- The COA&HS Russian Conversation Group responded to a request by MMSS to translate materials and is actively working on the project.
- This is excellent timing if any communities within the MMSS service area take in Ukrainian refugees.

FY23 Budget Update:

- COA&HS preferred budget item requests were approved at Annual Town Meeting.
- One additional hour was funded to bring Transportation Coordinator Carlee Castetter to 20 hours per week and an additional five hours was funded to bring Assistant Director Amy Gagne to 40 hours per week.
- Dilla was complimented for her well stated appeal at the Town meeting.

Continued Nutritional Insecurity: SNAP

- SNAP is the new name for food stamps.
- The impact of the pandemic is not plateauing. People's mental health needs are up, and the mental health clinics are running with a waitlist. More space is needed with Eliot Community Human Services. The Emergency Assistance Fund Committee has been meeting more frequently for several months.
- We are only given the SNAP data for Lincoln seniors who are single, living alone, and aged sixty plus. Forty-two seniors received an average SNAP benefit of \$174.00 in January. There are more seniors that are married, or not living alone and receiving the SNAP benefit. COA does not have a way to collect this data, but it is safe to say more than 42 Lincoln seniors are on SNAP. Those that sign up for MassHealth are automatically signed up for SNAP.
- Dilla commented that the Lincoln Food Pantry is also a wonderful resource, and they deliver. Sally Kindleberger suggested that the Food Pantry should promote their services regularly on Lincoln Talk.
- *Action Item:* Abigail will communicate with Karen Boyce regarding promoting Food Bank services in LincolnTalk.

New Partnership:

- A new partnership was announced with Minuteman Tech.
- On the first Tuesday of each month during the school year, salon services will be offered *at half price and with free coffee* through the generosity of MT for Lincoln seniors.
- A three-course meal is also offered for \$8.00.

Friday Senior Dining: The first meal had a few hick-ups that have been corrected. Otherwise, it went well. Seniors stayed and walked across the street for Lincoln Academy afterward in Bemis Hall.

Noteworthy Programming – see the Director's Report April 2022

- Lincoln Academy started weekly on Friday, April 8. Police Chief Kennedy will be talking and answering questions at the April 15 program.
- Trail walks start after Patriots Day on April 19.
- Mystery Theater Performance: "Murder a la Carte" by Delvena Theater Company is scheduled Sunday, May 1.

Old Business

Status of the New Community Center

- *Action Item:* Abigail will put this topic at the top of the agenda for the next meeting.



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- Peter Von Mertens asked when it would make sense to start fundraising.
- Abigail spoke to Tim Higgins and Dan Pereira about having representation on the Community Center Building Committee. COA&HS Director and one COA board member will be on the committee. There is more space for at large members from the community should other seniors want to participate.
- The community has expressed some push-back on cost. What kind of funding can we pull together and what would we like to see?
- The building committee recommendations will be due the fall of 2023 and voted on a special town meeting this fall. The timetable is based on what is reasonable timing to start. The project cannot start while the school building project is still on-going.
- Peter suggested that COA&HS raise money to reduce the total cost of the center and suggested that COA&HS might want to propose naming opportunities to raise funds.

Adjournment

Dilla called for a motion to adjourn. Laura Crosby so moved, and Don Milan seconded.

- The Motion to Adjourn passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

May 10, 2022, at 1:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Sizer, Minute Taker
April 15, 2022