



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 May 10, 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, 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. Wendy Kusik was absent.

Roll Call:

Laura Crosby	Aye
Sally Kindleberger	Joined after roll call
Wendy Kusik	Absent
Florence Montgomery	Aye
Jane O'Rourke	Aye
Terry Perlmutter	Joined after roll call
Kathy Ramon	Aye
Donna Rizzo	Aye
Dilla Tingley (Chair)	Aye
Don Milan	Aye
Peter Von Mertens	Aye
Hope White	Aye

March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Dilla asked for any corrections to the April 14 meeting minutes. Small corrections were advised. Don moved the minutes be approved. Laura Crosby seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Old Business

Status of the New Community Center (CC)

Discussion of the new CC was moved to the top of the agenda.

- Peter Von Mertens, Abigail, and Dilla met since the last meeting to discuss the goals of the CC and next steps for COA&HS advocates. The group realized that there were discussions needed before the CC Committee meetings begin e.g. a discussion with Parks and Recreation who will be sharing the building.
- Abigail met with Jessica Downing, Director of Parks and Recreation. A meeting with Tim Higgins and Dan Pereira followed to discuss the past planning history of the CC and current and future needs of both groups.



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- The Town does not have a true emergency shelter. The CC would be an ideal place for it.
- The application deadline for those that want to participate on the CC Committee is near. The Select Board will choose individuals for the committee at their next meeting. Peter and Dilla have both put in applications.
- Some on the Friends of COA Board (FLCOA) are receiving instruction on updated fundraising. The FLCOA now has a QR code that will be included on their materials so people can easily make donations.
- Peter noted that he, Dilla, and Abigail had looked at the old CC plans. He would like to recommend some changes, e.g., the CC needs more access to the outdoors.
- Abigail noted that she and Amy Gagne spend too much time setting up and taking down for activities. Jessica noted the same issue within Parks and Recreation. Tim and Dan agreed that a designated maintenance staff person might be necessary for the future CC.
- Consideration must be given to the timing of activities and designation of space. The timing of COA&HS activities overlaps with school let-out, Magic Garden and LEAP programming, and Park and Rec activities. New planning for the CC may end up looking different than initial planning, in part to ensure each organization can continue to run smoothly.
- A forum for public education and input will be needed. Studies show that participation in activities and services at newly built senior centers is dramatically increased. Another recent study by UMass Boston finds that some seniors feel they are “too young” to use senior center facilities. A community center would reduce this stigma and create an even greater utilization of services.
- COA&HS board wants to explore other community centers. The first step is to identify space needs. The board will wait until COVID settles down to determine actual space needs.

Liaison Reports

Housing Commission Meetings (Terry Perlmutter)

- Terry Perlmutter briefly reviewed the discussions at the last Housing Commission meeting.
 - The meeting focused on tenant issues and leases for people living in town-owned housing.
 - The Housing Commission would like the COA&HS liaison position to become a voting position. This will take some time to establish.
 - The Historical Commission will resume in-person meetings in June.
- Abigail updated the board on COA&HS upcoming meetings.
 - COA&HS will continue to offer a Zoom option for meeting attendance. FLCOA approved a blue tooth speaker for hybrid programming and meetings, which will allow for better sound.
 - The upcoming joint FLCOA & COA June meeting will be held upstairs rather than in the Map Room. The windows will be open and there are new air purifiers.
 - **Action Item:** *Dilla to send agenda items for joint agenda.*

Trip Committee (Donna Rizzo)

- The first trip this year will be next week, May 18, to Long Hill. The trip is fully booked.
- The group is meeting Thursday to continue planning.
- Tickets are available for the June production of 1776 the Musical.

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS) (Wendy Kusik)

Abigail informed the board that MMSS received ARPA money. COA&HS will benefit.

- Abigail proposed that MMSS buy Lincoln COA&HS an Owl Camera. These expensive cameras can cover the room, would be used for hybrid zoom meetings, and would increase the quality of zoom/hybrid programming.
- MMSS has offered to give COA&HS a budget for translation services.

SHINE (Don Milan)



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- Don Milan informed the group that after nearly 20 years of service he is no longer doing SHINE counseling. Abigail and the group thanked Don for his service.
- The SHINE program is working toward serving the needs of those with MassHealth questions. COA&HS is investigating the option of working with Emerson Hospital to engage a MassHealth Navigator, i.e. a person to help guide people in need of MassHealth assistance specifically.

Diversity Initiative (*Florence Montgomery, Hope White*)

- Hope White outlined upcoming activities.
 - May 14 – MetroWest Arts & Culture Symposium at Franklin Highschool, Franklin, MA.
 - May 18 – 10th Annual Taste of MetroWest at Sheraton Framingham Conference Center.
 - May 24 – Rally to End Period Poverty at the Massachusetts State House.
 - June 11 – The Opening Doors Festival, a live outdoor celebration of diversity and inclusion through music and art at Lynn Fells Parkway, Melrose, MA.
 - June 5-26 – Sowa Open Market, a collection of the region's best local artists, artisans, farmers, and food.
 - June 11 – Boston Art and Music Soul Festival at Franklin Park.
 - June 12 – Juneteenth celebration at Lincoln schools; the real Juneteenth is June 19th and the official date for honoring the event is June 20th.
- Florence Montgomery's report was included in Abigail's May 9th Board Meeting invite. Florence highlighted two books at the meeting from that report.
 - Facing the Mountain by Daniel James Brown is about the 442nd, a much decorated unit of young Japanese Americans who fought for the United States in Italy during WWII. Those who have no connections to that time or to any individuals who do, may come to understand how subtle and prevalent prejudice can be.
 - The Three Mothers by Anna Malaika Tubbs is about the mothers of **Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin**. All these mothers lived different lives. They influenced their children as mothers do.
- Florence informed the board that she is resigning.
 - She will continue to work on the diversity collection for a while.
 - The Board thanked Florence for role leading the charge on COA diversity initiatives and offered appreciation for her many years of excellent service.

Announcements/Director's Report (*Abigail Butt*) - see the COA Director's Report May 10

Social Services Update

- More progress was made with the water base rate waiver/reimbursement. Eligible condo owners who do not receive a water bill directly will now be reimbursed for the \$200 water service fee in four quarterly payments.
- A new partnership was established with the English at Large (EAL). Lincoln is now part of EAL's service area and is a satellite location.
- Kelly Cross has completed her one-year internship and is leaving. Abigail noted Kelly's tremendous assistance and thanked her for her service.

Noteworthy Programming

- The Lincoln Family Association is providing additional volunteers to staff the tech tutoring clinic, which consistently runs a long waitlist.
- Senior Salon Day is a success and MMSS has agreed to do it again next academic year. MMSS is working to provide service for all types of hair.



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- Senior Dining for April had a good start. There were details to work out, but each week it runs more smoothly.

Adjournment

Dilla called for a motion to adjourn. Sally Kindleberger so moved, and Florence Montgomery seconded.

- The Motion to Adjourn passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

June 14, 2022, at 1:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Sizer, Minute Taker
May 11, 2022