



TOWN of LINCOLN

Council on Aging & Human Services

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

Board Meeting Draft Minutes March 14, 2023

Virtual Meeting Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order, as extended on July 16, 2022, with the Governor's signing of Senate Bill #2475, Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Board Members Present: Laura Crosby, Wendy Kusik, Donald Milan, Jane O'Rourke, Terry Perlmutter, Kathy Ramon, Donna Rizzo, Dilla Tingley, Peter Von Mertens.

Staff: Abigail Butt (COA&HS Director)

Other Attendees: Collette Sizer (Minute-taker)

Welcome

Dilla Tingley called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m. Dilla asked for any changes or additions to the February 14, 2023 minutes. The date needed to be changed. Don moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Donna seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements/Director's Report *(Abigail Butt)*

Social Services Update

- The Mass Dept. of Agriculture (MDAR) letter campaign was successful.
 - MDAR is planning to increase the number of Senior's Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon booklets printed. They will also be increasing the value from \$25 to \$50. These booklets are for the growing season.
 - Abby would like to campaign at the Federal level to increase the cap beyond \$50.
 - COA&HS will do extensive outreach including a mailing to ensure resident who are eligible receive booklets.
 - This is only for seniors that are 60+.
 - MDAR and Codman farm have been working to have Codman be able to accept Senior Farmer's Market Coupons. Starting this spring, Saturday mornings at the Codman farm stand will be staffed so residents can use coupons to purchase produce during those times.
- Codman was able to become a SNAP HIP partner through MDAR, in addition their current status as a SNAP vendor.
 - The program allows an additional \$40-\$60 per month per household at farm stands or farmer's markets.
 - If a SNAP card is used, money spent at a farmer's market goes back on the SNAP card. This will support Codman because it is the only SNAP HIP vendor in Lincoln and will support our residents who receive SNAP who have not been able to access this benefit locally.
 - This may also bring people from other communities since Codman is open all year.
 - COA&HS will reach out to Codman to do a joint press release.
- Abigail, as a member of the Massachusetts Nutrition Legislative Task Force, will be working to advocate expanding these programs and hopefully, bringing SNAP CSA benefits in Lincoln as well.
- Parking at the Town Meeting can be difficult for seniors. There will be upfront parking spots reserved at this Annual Town Meeting for anyone, regardless of age, with a mobility impairment who would like to park closer.

New partnerships:

- Carly will have social services hours at the food pantry monthly.
- Trish McGean will have a trial set of monthly hours Wellness Clinic hours at Ryan Estates to get to know the residents and create a presence for COA&HS. A COA&HS staff person will join her.



TOWN of LINCOLN
Council on Aging & Human Services
c/o Town Offices
16 Lincoln Road
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773
Phone (781) 259-8811

Noteworthy Programming

Partnership classes (beginner piano and Zumba) set up with PDR are going well.

- Most people who attend are seniors. Seniors get a break on the pricing.
- The classes are held at Bemis, are jointly promoted, and registration is managed by both COA&HS and PDR.

Liaison Reports

Housing Commission Meetings (Terry Perlmutter)

- The Housing Commission is focused on bringing a request to the State to change the mechanism (appointed not elected) for choosing Housing Commission membership.
 - This will be approved at Town meeting.
 - There will be an increase of 5 members to 7 members. There are two candidates running for vacancies.
- The Commission is focused on maintaining Town buildings. They actively take care of the units that the Town manages.
- There is a separate group working on the rezoning project.

Trip Committee (Donna Rizzo)

Donna reported that the first meeting of the trip committee is this week. They will put together a trip for May, or at the latest June.

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS) (Abigail Butt/Wendy Kusik)

- Abby attended the regional directors meeting.
 - There is much AARPA money being used.
 - They will be offering a Clutter bug support group for people who hoard. It is open to Lincoln residents.
- MMSS is looking to change some of their by-laws and will be meeting every other month.
- They are moving to Burlington in mid-April and continue to work on re-branding.
- A March for Meals campaign will provide congregate meals in different towns. On March 24 the meal will be offered in Lincoln. Six seats will be set aside for Town leadership.
- Spring Walk to Run is a fundraising event planned for May 20 and May 29. People can set up their own event, i.e., they can start their own team to raise money.
- A MassCare program is being offered to educate spouses and children on how to care for the elderly.
- MMSS is asking for more money for SHINE and Elder nutrition.
- Statistics shared: In 2020 there are 73M people over 65. In 2030 baby boomers will be 20% of the national population. By 2026, 7.8M caregiver jobs will need to be filled to care for the elderly.

Diversity Initiative (Hope White)

Hope was not present. Abby updated the Board on IDEA.

- The Staff Diversity Committee has been engaged with the training of the new consultant.
- The Town is going to install, if approved, gender neutral bathrooms. Gender neutral baths must have a single door that can be locked.
 - This will impact Bemis. There are bathrooms that qualify.
 - Bathrooms downstairs at Town Hall, some at P&R and the Pierce House, will be made gender neutral.
- A survey will be generated regarding the work of the consultant.



TOWN of LINCOLN
Council on Aging & Human Services
c/o Town Offices
16 Lincoln Road
Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773
Phone (781) 259-8811

Report on Community Center Building Committee (Peter Von Mertens)

- Abby reported that ICON was chosen as the architect and provided reasons that ICON was chosen.
 - Sudbury was in a similar situation to Lincoln, and ICON was able to get them across the finish line with approval at their Town Meeting. ICON offers choices and then patiently answer questions at the Town Meeting to make people comfortable.
 - Lincoln can hire a different architect if the Town is not happy with ICON's plans.
- Peter von Mertens clarified that this group was not chosen to design the final building. They are lining up the proposals for the Town Meeting.
 - There will be three proposals that are all viable. These will not be three different proposals, i.e., some that are watered-down versions of the premier version.
 - Abby will send out the summary of how they looked at the project.
 - All building plans will all be net zero.
- Abby raised concern that some continue to favor decentralized COA&HS/PRD programming spaces throughout the town.
 - Abby's concern is that this will force program cuts.
 - Using other space will cost money for renovation and staffing.
 - There is also continued concern that some buildings, e.g., Bemis, will be torn down.
 - She asked that other people talk about building needs at public meetings.
 - Wendy is on the CCBC Outreach Committee, and they are talking about how to get the message across.
 - The underlying concern is cost, and the architect's plans may bring an understanding.
 - A multiprong blitz stating factual information should be launched.
- Jane will be meeting with people that do fundraising for other causes and will get ideas on how to fundraise for the Community Center.
- Peter encouraged an approach that will get people enthusiastic about the Community Center.

Adjournment

Dilla called for a motion to adjourn. Peter so moved, and Laura seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

April 11, 2023, at 1:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Sizer, Minute Taker
March 14, 2023