



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 11, 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: Tom Casey, Laura Crosby, Sally Kindleberger, Wendy Kusik, Donald Milan, Jane O'Rourke, Terry Perlmutter, Kathy Ramon, Dilla Tingley, Peter Von Mertens, Hope White.

Staff: Abigail Butt (COA&HS Director) Amy Rettig (COA&HS Assistant Director)

Other Attendees: Collette Sizer (Minute-taker)

Welcome

Dilla Tingley called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Dilla asked for any changes or additions to the March 14, 2023 minutes. Peter moved that the minutes be approved. Kathy seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Liaison Reports

Housing Commission Meetings (Terry Perlmutter)

There was no update.

Trip Committee (Donna Rizzo)

- The first trip planned, June 8, will be a lobster bake on a boat and a walk around Rockport.
- The second trip on July 30 will be to Tanglewood.
- The cost of the trips is rising. Abigail asked if reading materials might be put together for the bus trip with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion related to the areas being visited, such as the local Rockport businesses that are women owned, for example.

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

- Tom Casey attended the meeting and will likely be added to the board.
- The board is spending time reviewing and editing the by-laws.
- Option Counseling was discussed. This is a free service program. It serves seniors and people of any age with a disability with information and help with support services.
- Lincoln COA&HS usually refers people in need to Amy as a first step. This is one of her areas of expertise. Residents are then either referred to MMSS if they might be income eligible or to our Community Resource Guide if they will be paying out of pocket.

Diversity Initiative (Hope White)

Diversity activities include:

April 22 is Earth Day – the Framingham Center is having a Framingham Earth Day Festival.

May 12 – June 4 – The Color Purple musical will be running in Concord at the Umbrella Arts Center.

Lincoln IDEA has focus groups scheduled on May 15 and May 16. Please sign up.

April 28-30 the Greater Boston Area Bridging and Bonding Women's Social Trust Retreat will be held at the Verve Hotel in Natick.



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Report on Community Center Building Committee (Peter Von Mertens)

Peter commented on two issues coming out of the April 4 open-mic meeting.

- Communication. How do we help create better communication about what information is available.
 - www.lincolncommunitycenter.com is a good source of information.
- Worried that the Community Center will not pass. More people need to be involved.
 - Other groups should be identified that would use the facility, e.g., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the Garden Club, etc. Dan Pereira has reached out to local community organizations and is collecting feedback.
 - A school assembly to address middle schoolers may be an option.
 - Extend personal invites to people to speak.
 - One well organized group is dominating the conversation.
 - Younger residents are not well represented. Young parents are experiencing a different situation today than their parents did in the past. Many households are dual income and rely heavily on Parks and Rec for childcare. There is also a lack of places for parents of young children to go.
 - Abigail encouraged Board members to speak. ICON needs more feedback from the rest community.
 - More visible information needs to reach the community, e.g., through the COA&HS Newsletter, particularly concerning the issues with COA&HS use of downtown buildings. Perhaps list the pros and cons of the Hartwell space.
 - Initiate a CCBC newsletter and/or a blurb could be put in the Select Board Newsletter.
 - More meetings are on the schedule. April 25 is another open-mic night and April 26 is the regular business meeting.
- Casey said It is time to change the narrative. There has not been enough communication on alternatives for funding and how to defray the cost of building a community center.
 - Grants are available, there are fund sources for equipment in the kitchen, and fundraising efforts have been discussed by FLCOA.
 - Lincoln needs to think bigger, i.e., what will children in second grade today need to entice them back in the future to raise their children.

Announcements/Director's Report (Abigail Butt)

Social Services Update (see the April Director's report)

- Box of happiness Project. Forty boxes of cookies, sponsored by FLCOA, were delivered to Lincoln seniors.
- Please fill out the CCBC survey. We would like a good response rate.
- Funding for the Lincoln Rental Assistance Program has been approved and increased. This will allow for a maximum benefit increase to current program participants.

Noteworthy Programming



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- The transition time between Senior Dining and Lincoln Academy will be shortened starting in June due to public feedback.
- A luncheon for COA&HS volunteers sponsored by FLCOA will be hosted at Bemis Hall on May 24.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

May 9, 2023, at 1:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Sizer, Minute-taker
April 12, 2023