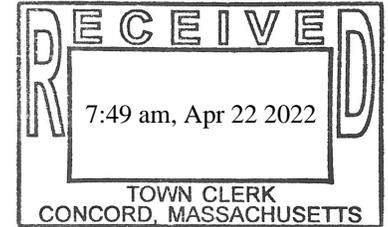


Concord COA Board Meeting minutes
Feb 15, 2022



The Board Meeting took place using Zoom. The meeting was recorded.

After some technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order at 4:48 p.m.

Attendance:

Kristin Nelson	present	Carol	present
Teri Stokes	present	Patty Keane	present
Rod Riedel	present	Carol Ann Hannan (chair)	present
Michael Rudd	present	Christine Kendrick	present

Mark Gailius joined as a guest. He was interested generally in catching up on the activities of the COA.

Approval of Minutes

Susan has minor edit on last page, suggesting it be revised to: "...vote by raising their ballot out their window".

Teri made a motion to accept January's minutes. Rod seconded.

Patty Keane: yes
Carol Ann Hannan: yes
Michael Rudd: yes
Christina: yes
Kristin: yes
Carol: yes

Director's Report: Ginger Quarles

- Ginger shared the good news that although the town had requested all budgets to be decreased in the coming year, the COA's budget for the next fiscal year was not cut.
- Ginger will be meeting with the allocations committee of the Community Chest on March 1 to discuss their proposal.
- Because of the huge response to the offering for the UCLA memory training workshop, Ginger had been seeking new facilitators to assist the COA team. Kristin and Teri attended the recent facilitator training and now will be able to co-lead upcoming sessions with the COA staff. The next workshop will complete the training for everyone who had been on the waiting list. The COA will advertise a new series and, with the increased staffing, hope to better meet the future demand.
- COA is going to finally take a Celtic Angels trip on March 10 that was cancelled two years ago. They will be using the credit from that last trip's cancellation, recouping some (though not all) of the money. Only 12 people signed up this time; before 20 had signed up and been credited.
- CCHS will be holding the St. Patrick's Day drive-through at the high school on Saturday March 12. As in the past, delivery service will also be available. Unfortunately, the COA didn't get word in time to put it in the February newsletter but they are advertising through flyers and staff are

proactively telling people as they sign up for other events. It was suggested that the COA use the email list for the newsletter to get the word out which Ginger said they would consider although she noted that they are getting the information out to many people and sign-ups are going well.

- Ginger's plan to attend the Disability Committee meeting was postponed until March because their agenda was packed.
- In response to a question about the tax preparation services that had been suspended during COVID, Ginger clarified that they are offering the service this year, albeit in a modified format. Clients bring in their materials, have a brief meeting with the volunteer, and leave their materials in order to minimize exposure. The team works on the materials and then they come back together at the end.

Liaison Reports:

Minuteman Senior Services (Margaret)

- There was a had board meeting on February 2. They have been filling the missing board seats, mostly members at-large, but still have vacant seats. Most of meeting was spent discussing the ASAP area aging report which is compiled every 4 years and collects data about the areas' demographics, types of needs for seniors, what is being provided, what are the unmet needs, etc. Based on the report, Minutemen has come up with areas to focus on: expanding their reach to underserved populations including those under 60, disabled, BIPOC, transgender communities, etc.; measuring the effectiveness of the Older Americans Act core programs; emergency preparedness; and how to support programming that addresses the social determinants of health.

Susan:

The Select Board is preparing for town meeting. There will be a Select Board meeting on February 28. On March 8, they will cover the zoning articles. Then they will hold hearings on budgets and community preservation. The Town Meeting will be held on May 1 which is scheduled to be an indoor meeting.

Christine made a request for detailed information about the meeting to be submitted to the Journal early enough that it can be viewed by residents in advance. Susan will follow-up on the suggestion.

Other:

ARPA funds:

Carol Ann and Ginger led a discussion about the ARPA funding through which \$5.6M will be going to Concord. The money will be allocated by 2024, distributed by 2026, and be focused on equity. The Select Board had a meeting devoted to the ARPA funding and discussed the importance of engaging the community and community leaders in the process of determining how Concord could best use this money. The Select Board is still collecting recommendation and so the COA board discussed priorities and recommendations they'd like to see passed along for the town's consideration. Some ideas discussed included: helping support programming (since The Treasure Chest hasn't been open for two years and that money subsidizes a lot of the activities); a mental health counselor which has been included but not funded in past COA budgets (the problem with staffing is that it will become an on-going expense which will need to be funded even after the initial funding has ended); an additional COA van (which Ginger noted would be appropriate in the future but was not immediately necessary); ensuring that all vans are all-electric and equipped with robust ventilation, monitoring and filtration systems; and, ensuring that the COA has installed systems that will help the facility withstand any future

variants. Ginger responded that the building has a very sophisticated air monitoring and filtration system and is in quite good shape on that front. Christina requested that, if there are further discussions about the electric powering of vans, she would like to be included in them. Ginger noted that there is a study looking at all the town's departments and the feasibility of all-electric vehicles for each of them. This report should be done soon and will indicate which department vehicles could be replaced with all-electric.

Susan agreed that they are cautious about increasing something that needs to be maintained after the initial funding expires (service or personnel) but understands the importance of the mental health request. She commented that there was a recent needs assessment from the Community Chest and the top of list was mental health.

After a lengthy discussion, Carol Ann suggested everyone continue to think about it. Ginger suggested that Carol Ann submit these recommendations to Teri since the Select Board will be taking up more discussions about the APRA funding and will appreciate the input.

COA Board Vacancies:

The COA still has a few board vacancies: 1 full and 2 associate members, plus Patty is rotating off. Susan noted that it is on the Select Board agenda to regularly review committees looking for members.

Other:

Rod commended Ginger and her staff for their recent help in finding a home health aide for his mother. He was particularly impressed to find that they vet the references for everyone on the list they provided.

Mark agreed that mental health services are extremely important and encouraged the COA Board to aim high noting that, if anything deserves special community funding now, mental health would be it. He also suggested that if the COA has transportation priorities, they should give them to the transportation committee. Finally, he mentioned Article 47 and the importance of preserving the trail by Great Meadows as a walking trail which would offer mental health benefits for the community as well.

Patty suggested that, in the future, there could be an item at the end of agenda for public comments. Carol Ann will add this going forward.

Motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Carol. Rod seconded. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Kristin Nelson: yes

Carol Ann Hannan: yes

Michael Rudd: yes

Carole Cushing: yes

Patty: Yes

Christina: yes

Teri: yes

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45

LIAISON REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2022 COA BOARD MEETING

Board of Health (Patty Keane)

Several issues were discussed at this meeting and, although none of these seem to be directly related to the senior population in Concord, I give a brief summary below of some of the main topics discussed.

1. On December 27, 2021 an emergency meeting was called for the Board of Health because of significantly rising Covid numbers due to the Omicron Variant. At this meeting a mask mandate was put in place for all public inside areas in Concord MA. This mandate will remain in place until the number of positive cases falls to an acceptable level and until Middlesex County numbers decrease significantly, which is explained in more detail on the website.
2. A representative of the Concord Players at 51 Walden requested a waiver on the mask mandate for the actors when performing. This waiver was not granted at this time because no such waivers will be considered by the BOH until the high number of positive Covid cases in Concord and Middlesex County fall below the threshold (explained on website).
3. A variance was requested by the Asiana Management Group Inc. for a rice product of a sushi bar they are hoping to open in West Concord soon. While their company's plan meets almost all the BOH criteria, they must first hire a local person specifically to give in-person continual oversight on this variance. Thus, the variance was not granted at this time.
4. 18 applications have been received for the Public Health Director position which was recently vacated by Susan Rask.
5. The next Board of Health meetings will be held on February 15, March 15, and April 26.

PEG Access (Carole Cushing)

Items from the PEG Access Committee meeting on 2/10:

A very easy way to access the MMN web site to find the TV schedule for channels 8, 9 and 99 and the videos of various town meetings is to type MINUTEMAN.MEDIA (all caps not necessary) in the address bar of your browser.

Comcast offers an Internet Essentials option for eligible customers for \$10 per month. The application process is not straight forward. Supposedly the COA was given information on this.

With the closing of town buildings because of Covid, MMN is behind schedule on assessing the needs of the various town buildings with respect to upgrading recording facilities. They are

now catching up on this and would like to know what upgrades the COA might need or want to hear about.

Concord After 60. (Teri Stokes)

In February the CA60 group started to earnestly work on preparing for 501c3 status. A working group of three sought the advice and counsel of a retired lawyer with much experience in developing such non-profit corporations. An initial draft of bylaws will be presented for consideration and discussion on Saturday Feb. 19 at 1:30PM by Zoom.

There are basically three steps to be considered: By-laws development and approval, Incorporation papers to be filed, and Decision to file for 501c3 status with IRS

In addition another small team was formed to search for Concord locations suitable for CA60 meetings in person when the pandemic restraints are lifted. The February CA60 group meeting will be on Zoom Sunday February 20th 2-4 PM. It is to be a Trivial Pursuit Game Hosted by Tom Rarich.

Concord Housing Development Corp. (Michael Rudd)

No report

Concord Housing Authority meeting [February 3, 2022] (Rod Riedel)

No news relevant to COA to report

Public Works Commission meeting [February 9, 2022] (Rod Riedel)

CPW reviewed ten-year plans for capital repairs and improvements to Water and Sewer systems in Concord:

Most of the capital required for the Water system will be provided by existing monies in the Water Fund. Approximately \$3.4 million will additionally be required starting in FY2024; funding options include federal/state/town funding or debt.

All the capital required for the sewer system will be provided by existing monies in the Sewer Fund and the Sewer Improvement Fund.