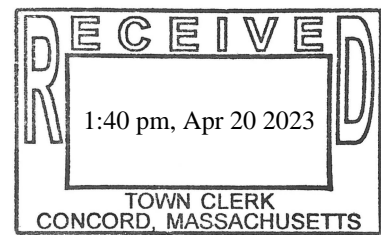


Concord COA Board Meeting minutes  
March 21, 2023



The COA Board Meeting took place at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center and via Zoom.

Present: Susanna Bedell, Christina Kendrick, Grazia de la Cruz-Bardenheuer, Paul Levine, Carol Ann Hannan (Chair), and Lauren Barretta (COA Director). Kathy Hanley and Teri Stokes arrived late.

Absent: Rod Riedel

Guests: Karlen Reed, Mark Howell, Harold Carmel and Julia Gallagher

Roll Call attendance:

Paul Levine	here
Christina Kendrick	here
Grazia de la Cruz	here
Susanna Bedell	here
Carol Ann Hannan	here

Guest: Karlen Reed is a candidate for the Select Board. She is a retired lawyer and has lived in Concord for fourteen years. She is arranging coffee hours to speak with voters. There will be one on Friday at 4:00 pm at Harvey Wheeler. She has served on the PEG Access Committee for five years. Their current focus is the negotiation of the Comcast contract. There will be a meeting of the focus groups on May 11, 7-8:30 PM. This is her second run for Select Board and urges the board members to vote in the town election.

Guest: Mark Howell is a candidate for the Select Board. He has been involved with town activities and is attending the meeting as an observer.

**Review of Minutes**

The minutes from the January and February meetings were reviewed and approved without changes.

Teri made a motion to accept the January and February meeting minutes. Susanna seconded the motion. All in favor:

Paul Levine	yes
Christina Kendrick	yes
Grazia de la Cruz- Bardenheuer	yes
Kathy Hanley	yes
Carol Ann Hannan	yes

January and February meeting minutes were approved.

**Director's Report**

Open positions: The recruitment of new staff is moving along. Claudia who was an administrative assistant has been promoted to the position of Administrative Operations Supervisor. The receptionist and administrative assistant positions have been posted and 120 applications have been received for the administrative assistant. The interview process will consist of a round of screening interviews with Lauren and Claudia and then a second panel interview. Lauren and Claudia will recommend their top choice to the Town manager who will then make the final hiring decision.

Programming at the COA is full. The Fall mailing of the COA newsletter and other outreach including the Living Concord email, facebook posts, inclusion in the Town Manager’s weekly report and the Concord Bridge listings have engaged approximately 200 more seniors.

Statistics: Approximately 100 people visit the COA daily for activities, social service and tax prep. Two thirds of the senior community is connected to the COA in some capacity – higher percentage at higher ages. There is a bit of ageism with the misconception that one might not be “old enough” to be involved with the COA. This could be a topic for a future article in the Concord Bridge.

Lauren was asked what would be on her wish list for the COA. More space for programming would be helpful – specifically a dance studio and art space.

Teri mentioned that the main library has a sewing machine and telecommunication equipment that could be used for collaborative activities. The library director is supportive of collaborations.

There are tax relief programs available through the town and state. The COA assists with applications. The town assessor’s office notifies them of deadlines for the programs. This information is included in the monthly newsletter.

**Election of officers for next year**

Christina Kendrick volunteered to serve as Chair and Grazia volunteered to serve as secretary. Since the Board members were present in the room, a simple vote was taken.

Christina as Chair

Yes	7
No	0

Grazia as secretary

Yes	7
No	0

Christina and Grazia were elected as Chair and Secretary for next year.

Teri will consider applying for membership to the Minuteman Senior Services Board for the town of Concord.

**Comments from guests:**

Mark Howell – recommended updating the town website with the names of the new chair and secretary. He said he enjoyed the meeting.

Karlen Reed – announced that she would have an open coffee hour at Harvey Wheeler on Friday, March 24 at 4:00-5:30 pm.

Julia Gallagher and Harold Carmel, both prospective board members, enjoyed learning about the COA and its activities.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55.

## **LIAISON REPORTS FOR MARCH 2023 COA BOARD MEETING**

### **Concord Housing Authority - Rod Riedel**

CHA reviewed its FY2024 Annual Plan at its March meeting. Following public comment, the CHA Board approved the Annual Plan; an updated copy of the Plan will be submitted to the State and can be found at:

[https://dhcdcms.intelligrants.com/Upload/MADHCD\\_PHRA/24248\\_3.pdf](https://dhcdcms.intelligrants.com/Upload/MADHCD_PHRA/24248_3.pdf)

The plan includes not only an outline of activities/budgets planned for the next fiscal year, but also an assessment of CHA's past performance. For example, see page 66 of the report for an assessment of how many residents had heating problems during the year and how quickly CHA restored heat.

Overall impression: CHA is doing a very good job maintaining and upgrading its housing units.

### **PEG Access - Christina Kendrick**

PEG Access is still working on their Comcast focus groups.

### **Concord After 60 Liaison - Teri Stokes, Ph.D.**

#### February Meeting - Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm West Concord Union Church

Anne Rarich introduced Holly Kuovo. Moira provided healthy snacks-water, grapes, and cheese. Holly used a microphone system recently purchased by CA60 so her good health messages came across loud and clear for all to hear. Audience participation was also active with balance and stretch exercises being taught and experienced by all.

New program research – Laura LeVan Steering Committee Chair, Betty Knacke Secretary and Teri Stokes attended the COA presentation of Joseph Palumbo. His talk on indigenous and black residents in Concord's history was seen as very informative and a good one for a future CA60 meeting.

#### March Meeting - Sunday March 19,2023 St Patrick's Day Festival- The Goal is to let it be a lot of fun.

Ann served green grapes in small containers, St. Patrick's Day cookies and green punch. John Carew sang Irish songs while playing the guitar. Alice Daly recited two Irish poems and sang a song. Lorna and Joanne Angier read poems. Janet shared a book of Irish jokes. Ann asked people for any memories of Ireland travels that they would like to share. The chairs were set up in a casual way- in clusters or grouped in half-circles to help socializing. The afternoon was intended to be casual, fun and a chance to socialize. That it was.