

Concord COA Board Meeting minutes  
April 15, 2021

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

Present: Rod Riedel, Lauren Barretta, Susan Bates, Patty Keane, Carole Cushing, Carol Ann Hannan (Chair), Kristin Nelson, Teri Stokes, Christina Kendrick, Karlen Reed, Andy Puchrik, Pamela Dritt

Absent: Margaret Hoag, Michael Rudd, Andrea Zall, Ginger Quarles

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes were approved by a roll call vote.

Terri Stokes: yes  
Rod Riedel: yes  
Kristin Nelson: yes  
Christine Kendrick: yes  
Patty Keane: yes  
Carol Ann Hannan: yes  
Carole Cushing: yes

Finance Committee (Andrea Zall). No report.

Minuteman Report (Margaret Hoag). No report.

Concord Housing Authority (Rod Riedel). The CHA has identified a final candidate for Executive Director and is completing negotiations. The CHA has completed a submission to HUD to reposition some of their units. If accepted, the repositioning could translate into added revenue which would help with some of the on-going unit maintenance costs. There was a vaccination shot clinic held at Peter Bulkeley which included CHA staff. As a result, their staff will be able to go back to onsite work in the near future. The CHA praised the Department of Public Works for their efforts during the COVID pandemic keeping the residents of all their properties safe: there have not been any COVID cases at Everett nor Bulkeley.

Disability Commission (Lauren Barretta). No report (they are meeting tonight).

Concord after 60 (Teri Stokes). No meeting (the speaker had cancelled).

Concord Housing Development Corp. (Michael Rudd). No report.

NMI/Starmet (Kristin Nelson). Kristin reported that the committee has delivered the final report to the Select Board. The Board will review the recommendations and may hold a workshop in September to invite further feedback from the public. The NMI/Starmet committee is now disbanded.

Board of Health (Patty Keane). Next meeting will be April 27 at 7. Kristin will attend on behalf of Patty who will be away.

Public Works (Rod Riedel). Rod reported that the Department has released a new tree planting guide pamphlet which is very interesting. They have also submitted an application to extend the stone wall

that surrounds Heywood meadow (by Lexington Road). The Recycling Department gave a presentation at the library which was very well attended. Rod noted that this presentation may be interesting to share at either the COA or the Concord after 60 group. Patty agreed, noting that the COA had hosted a similar presentation in the past. Lauren will try to schedule this in June. Finally, DPW said that there will be an increase in the water and sewer rates to address an emerging contaminant that has been identified: PFAS. The department needs additional funding to undertake testing to determine the current levels and whether there needs to be additional steps for monitoring and treatment. Water treatment plant is also renewing their contract and may have some increased needs (i.e., to replace some machinery, etc).

PEG Access (Carole Cushing). At the last PEG Access committee meeting, there was a discussion about putting the guide on the TV, not just on the website, to make it easier for individuals to follow programming. Unfortunately, there is a large cost to do this and it is too expensive. During the COA board meeting, Karlen said that she was glad that this issue was raised at the last meeting and, now that she is aware of this issue, she is very focused on trying to resolve it for the residents. She said that she will be back in touch to discuss further.

Transportation. Lauren noted that there is no change in the transportation situation: the van can still only hold up to two seniors at a time and supermarket visits have not yet resumed.

Chair Report. No chairs breakfast.

Select Board Report (Susan Bates). Susan noted that town meeting will be outdoors at Doug White field (the upper field at the high school) on June 13 and hearings will start April 27. Individuals can check the website for more details. After the hearings, the town committees will make recommendations for approval or not going into town meeting. This year, Patriots day will be on the minuteman network. A new trail guide has been released by Concord's Natural Resource Division (Ecology Along Concord Trails) which details the 14 conservation properties owned by the town and includes maps of the trails. It makes for a wonderful gift and is available at the visitor's center for \$15.

Director's Report.

- The COA is still working with Open Table on two programs: 1) a monthly delivery of groceries and 2) Healthy Helpings which gives heart-healthy prepared foods and snacks to individuals, regardless of income. The COA is still taking signups for both of these programs.
- The COA is looking forward to the Gaining Grounds program, Food for Families, which is not restricted to seniors. In this program, individuals sign up to receive grocery bags of fresh produce from Gaining Grounds.
- The radiologist/oncologist speaker on COVID has been rescheduled for May 4 at 1 pm.
- All (three) second dose clinics have been completed.
- The call volume to the COA of people looking for vaccines has fallen. Most people who want to be vaccinated have been able to. Nonetheless, the COA is still available to help people make - or get to - a vaccine appointment.
- The COA does not yet have an update regarding its plan to reopen. When it does reopen, it will likely be a phased process.
- Rod suggested that perhaps the COA newsletter could have an on-going invitation to seniors to call if they have not yet gotten the vaccine and would like to do so. While most seniors have

been taken care of, an on-going reminder might help encourage any remaining individuals that they can still get the vaccine and can still have assistance from the COA in doing so.

Other.

Pamela noted that the Environmental Working Group ([www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org)) is a good resource for individuals wanting more information regarding pollutants (ie, PFAS).

Motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Terri. The motion was seconded by Carole and approved by a roll call vote.

Rod Riedel: yes

Kristin Nelson: yes

Christine Kendrick: yes

Patty Keane: yes

Carol Ann Hannan: yes