Concord COA Board Meeting minutes
June 17, 2021
Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower room

Present: Patty Keane, Carole Cushing, Carol Ann Hannan (Chair), Teri Stokes, Michael Rudd, Rod Riedel, Ginger Quarles and Susan Bates

Absent: Kristin Nelson, Christina Kendrick, Margaret Hoag, and Andrea Zall,

Guests: Karlin Reed

Approval of Minutes. The minutes were approved with the following two changes:

In the Minuteman report, the Ombudsman program was not suspended for the past year but rather the in-person visits to facilities were suspended. The ombudsmen are visiting the facilities in person again.

Revise the sentence on the Globe and MIT collaboration to: “The Boston Globe and the MIT Age Lab have been presenting articles titled “The Longevity Lab”. The objective is to make Boston a hub or center for new technology and ideas for its aging population.”

Minuteman Report (Margaret Hoag)
No report.

Concord Housing Authority (Rod Riedel)
No report.

Disability Commission. (Ginger Quarles)
No report.

Concord after 60 (Teri Stokes)
The Steering Committee met last month. They are considering activities for summer and fall. The Concord After 60 group complements the activities of the COA and provides events and support in the evenings and on weekends. Annual membership is $24. The Steering Committee wants to keep costs down to encourage participation and most events and meetings are free. An event with Verrill Farm is planned for the future. There will be a charge for this event.

Concord Housing Development Corp (Michael Rudd)
Regarding the Christopher Heights Junction Village Assisted Living building project, a federal environmental impact statement is not required. Funds are available for the project. The project still requires the necessary Town permits.

NMI/Starmet (Kristin Nelson)
No report

Board of Health (Patty Keane)
This month’s meeting was cancelled. Susan Rask, the Director of the BOH, said that the COVID infection rate is down.
Public Works (Rod Riedel)
The Public Works department is working to identify unanticipated expenses to determine a long range plan for maintenance. Recently a culvert on Monument Street failed. There was much flooding that could potentially have washed out the road. The cost to mitigate the problem is $600K to date. There are 165 culverts in Concord. The infrastructure is old. Public Works plans to inventory the culverts and plan prospective maintenance over the next 10 years to avoid significant disruption and fee increases.

PFAS – To date all water sources have tested below the allowable limit of 20 ppt. However, the Hugh Cargill Well tested at 10 ppt and will be closely watched. Nagog Pond has not been tested as it is not currently online. If PFAS levels increase above the allowable limit, the Town may be called upon to provide bottled water.

Nagog Pond is currently offline due to the installation of a new treatment facility. As Nagog Pond provides 2/3 of the town’s water supply, the community is vulnerable during droughts.

PEG Access (Carole Cushing)
Carlisle is renewing its Comcast agreement. Concord will renegotiate its agreement in the fall. These agreements kick back funds for the TV studios. Cable usage is down while internet streaming is up.

COA will be named in a PEG Access award for videos on a TV station.

Transportation
No report.

Finance Committee (Andrea Zall)
No report

Select Board Report (Susan Bates)
A successful Town Meeting was held on June 13 on the Doug White Fields at the High School. There was good turn out. Carmen Reiss, the moderator, ran a tight, well organized meeting. The two articles that generated a lot of discussion were Articles 31 and 41 on the restriction on use of fossil fuels in new construction and the creation of a committee to review Broadband access for the town, respectively. Currently, 20% of the town does not have access to the Town Broadband and there is a large backlog of requests. Both articles passed.

Next on the agenda for the Select Board is setting goals for FY2022 and the evaluation of the Town Manager.

Chair Report
There are three vacancies on the COA Board – one full member and two associate members. We need to fill these vacancies in the coming year.

There were no volunteers to serve as Chair or Secretary for the Board for FY2022. Carol Ann will remain Chair and we will reconsider positions in September.
Director’s Report  (Ginger Quarles)
The reopening of the COA is going well. The CDC cards are checked for each individual upon entering. This has been graciously accepted by most individuals. Fully vaccinated individuals may remain mask less in the building. Activities and lingering are limited. No drop ins.

Town Clerk’s Office is still in the lower level which limits available space for activities.

In September, Wednesday lunch, Harvey’s Treasure Chest and volunteers will return.

The Concord Community Chest gave a grant to the COA again this year. There was an event at Verrill Farm in recognition of funds raised and grants given.

The COA will create a memory board to honor and remember those who were lost this past year.

The COA will close early on Fridays over the summer.

The COA is considering compiling documentation of lessons learned from the COVID experience.

The Friends of the Aging donated gift cards to the COA to distribute to those in need.

Other Business
The COA Board meeting schedule will change to the third Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm at Harvey Wheeler. Meetings will be in-person but we will maintain the Zoom link in case of increment weather. There will be no meetings in July and August. The September meeting will be a planning meeting and will focus on defining the role of the members on the Board and within the community.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.