

Concord Council on Aging Board meeting minutes
November 19, 2020

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

Present: Susan Bates (Select Board Liaison), Carole Cushing, Patty Keane, Christina Kendrick, Kristin Nelson, Ginger Quarles, Rod Riedel, Michael Rudd, Teri Stokes, Andrea Zall (finance committee observer), and Carol Ann Hannan (Chair). Tom McKean from Wheeler House.

Absent: Grazia de la Cruz-Bardenheuer, Margaret Hoag

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm. Record button was started.

Approval of Minutes: Patty corrected the spelling of Riordan. She also noted that he will not join the Board until she steps down. The minutes for October were approved as amended.

Roll call vote:

Carole Cushing	yes	Patty Keane	yes	Christina Kendrick	yes
Kristin Nelson	yes	Rod Riedel	yes	Teri Stokes	yes
Michael Rudd	yes	Carol Ann Hannan	yes		

Minuteman Report: No report.

Concord Housing Authority: Patty reported that the Nov meeting was held but with no information relevant to COA. Kristin was unable to attend the CHDC meeting but got an update via Lee Smith (the chair). The project is currently in a holding pattern, pending the outcome of the election, as the next step is to find an investor. They have received all approvals from the Town and State and still anticipate that Grantham (the developer) will secure financing shortly after the election, close the deal by early summer 2021 and break ground immediately after that, potentially opening for initial leasing in late 2022. The initial leasing will be done with a preference for Concord residents. Ginger requested that more information be obtained about services and transportation being provided for the residents. There was also a question regarding egress/access to the facility and whether it is all via Winthrop.

Disability Commission: No report.

Concord After 60: Meeting held by zoom recently and although Teri was not able to attend, she got a report. Participants noted that the zoom format has helped increase communication and understanding (individuals can see and hear questions/answers well). Three groups continue to function: Walking, History of Art, Book group with 15+ members. December meeting will have musical duo and a request for participants to come with thoughts on what they value about Concord.

Chair Report: The Chairs breakfast was yesterday. There are still vacancies on committees and the Select Board requests interested individuals to be encouraged to volunteer. Open Meeting Law Guidelines were redistributed for everyone to review and it was noted that roll call must be completed for all votes – including minutes. The committee on tax relief is monitoring taxes on senior and has asked the State legislature to make the current temporary reduction permanent. The PEG Access Advisory Committee (related to Minuteman Network) would like a representative from the COA Board.

Finance Committee: Andrea reported that the committee will be meeting tonight. She'll report back on JunctionVillage.

Select Board: Susan reported on board vacancies. She asked about the needs of COA. Carol Ann reported that there has been a delay in appointment letters from the Town Manager for Christina, Carol Ann, Teri, and Grazia. Susan will follow-up on those delays. The COA also still needs two associate members. Susan will have that added to the list of committee vacancies. It was noted that the Town Clerk's Office is in Harvey Wheeler building due to renovations downtown.

Timothy Wheeler:

Tom McKean presented a request on behalf of the Timothy Wheeler House Board which is submitting an application to the community preservation committee to fund \$185,000 for renovations to the building. The Timothy Wheeler House would like the COA Board to submit a letter of support. There was a discussion around the mission, history, and services of the Timothy Wheeler House and the specifics of the funding request. Mr. McKean explained that the funding will be used to complete items identified through an historic resource study that was completed in 2018. The funding will supplement the Wheeler House's own financial commitment to complete additional updates/renovations at the same time. Given that the letter needs to be submitted by the next day, the group voted for and approved a motion for Carol Ann to draft and submit the letter.

Roll call vote:

Carole Cushing yes	Patty Keane yes	Christina Kendrick yes
Kristin Nelson yes	Rod Riedel yes	Teri Stokes yes
Michael Rudd yes	Carol Ann Hannan yes	

Director's Report: Ginger reported the following:

- Andrea was able to secure 1,000 disposable masks through the Rotary Club for a mask giveaway in January. They hope to put 5 or 6 masks in a single baggie which folks can pick up in a drive through. This will be announced in the January newsletter.
- The COA is making lots of calls (roughly 800) to check-in on seniors. They are on their third round of calling individuals.
- They had a drive-through Veterans' Day event which was successful. This is a tribute to the COA gift shop which, even though have not made money since closing, has been able to fund the giveaways.
- There are two options for Thanksgiving meals for seniors in Concord/Carlisle. The COA is giving away 120 turkey meals on Friday and CCHS is giving away turkey meals on Saturday. (Open Table in Maynard is doing their giveaway next Tuesday.)
- The COA is starting a 4-meeting bereavement series on Monday with a great facilitator. There are still openings. If anyone knows interested individuals, please refer them.
- The COA has secured four iPads through the CARES Act to be used for home visits. The COA staff person calls the iPad as they approach the front door, puts it down, rings the bell and goes back to their car. The senior can then pick up the iPad and go inside. This enables the COA employee to have a more personal visit than a phone call without entering the house.
- The AARP tax assistance that was discussed in the October meeting will not be able to be offered this year due to the COVID-related limitations. This will be announced in the January newsletter.
- Patti suggests putting off discussion about other boards and committees to December.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23.