



Concord COA Board Meeting minutes
February 21, 2023

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

Present: Kathy Hanley (Zoom), Rod Riedel, Grazia de la Cruz-Bardenheuer, Paul Levine, Carol Ann Hannan (Chair), and Matt Johnson (Select Board liaison)

Absent: Susanna Bedell, Christina Kendrick, Teri Stokes and Lauren Barretta (Director)

Guests: Joe Palumbo (DEI Commission), Kellie Hebert (Interim Deputy Town Manager), and Mark Gailus (Transportation Advisory Committee).

Roll Call attendance

Rod Riedel	present
Paul Levine	present
Grazia de la Cruz- Bardenheuer	present
Kathy Hanley	present
Carol Ann Hannan	present

Review of Minutes

The minutes had not been reviewed by all members prior to the meeting so review and approval will be postponed until March.

Interim Director's Report

Lauren Barretta was not able to attend this meeting. She submitted a written report prior to the meeting. It is attached.

Guest: Joe Palumbo

Joe gave a background for the formation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission in 2021. The focus of the commission is to create a welcoming community for everyone who lives, works, goes to school or visits Concord. The commission created a survey that they would like the community to complete. Their target of responses is 1,000. A request to complete this survey can be included in the COA newsletter.

The DEI Commission would like to study the need to hire a Director of DEI for the Town. The warrant article #10 proposes a study to determine whether the hiring of a Director of DEI should be recommended to the Select Board.

Upcoming events:

- February 27: Select Board hearing
- February 28: Joe will visit the COA for an event focusing on the history of Concord with an emphasis on indigenous people.
- March 12: The film "Who We Are" will be shown at the library.
- April 12: Ellen Garrison event

Guest: Mark Gailus

Mark is a member of the Transportation Advisory Board. He shared some updates. The Town has a dedicated transportation planner, Erin Stevens. All modes of transportation are considered including by foot. The intersection at Main and Walden streets will have makeover to add bump-outs and an extended sidewalk to improve visibility. The shuttlebus pilot last summer showed promise and additional transportation options will be explored in coming years.

Other needs to be considered include: accessibility at the MBTA stations in Concord and West Concord and the need for providing integration between the two town centers.

Guest: Kellie Hebert

Kellie is the Interim Deputy Town Manager. She updated the Board on the recruitment of new staff. One position for an administrative assistant has been posted. There have been 30 applicants to date. Two other positions have been reevaluated and realigned with the needs of the COA. The Assistant Director position will now be an Administrative Operations Supervisor and the other administrative assistant position will have duties as a receptionist. These changes will allow a separation of the two areas of focus: administration/operations and case management.

There may be internal candidates who are eligible for these positions. The positions will be posted internally for approximately 2 weeks before being advertised externally.

Board Membership

The term for board membership ends in the month of Town meeting – April. There are four Board members whose terms are ending. Three are eligible to be reappointed. Currently we are shy one full member and two associate members. We need to recruit! We also need to select a new chair and secretary for next year. Board members are asked to consider taking on one of these roles.

Meeting adjourned at 5:38.

LIAISON REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2023 COA BOARD MEETING

Concord Housing Authority - Rod Riedel

Construction of subsidized housing unit (2BR house) at 367 Commonwealth Avenue has begun and the foundation has been poured. Habitat for Humanity is responsible for construction and construction costs.

(Observation: CHA initiated this project and has now led this effort for approximately 5+ years.)

PEG Access - Christina Kendrick

Minuteman Media Network will be posting the COA schedule. The COA time will probably be from noon to 1. We can highlight events and look at education, speakers and other things.

Concord After 60 – Teri Stokes

The Steering Committee met on Tuesday, January 10th and voted to purchase a new remote speaker microphone unit for our meetings. It was also decided to have a Zoom capacity at our monthly meetings to support members who could not come in person.

Sunday, January 15th 1:30 – 4 PM was the first hybrid in-person meeting with a Zoom connection. It was an outstanding meeting with very full in-person audience at the West Concord Union Church. Speakers were three state legislators: MA Senator Mike Barrett and MA Representatives Carmine Gentile and Simon Cataldo. There was very active audience participation in a wide-ranging discussion following the three introductory speeches. Topics ranged from needing more diversity in the town to tax and school issues and affordable housing for young families and older seniors to unregulated home owners associations for condos in town and bringing more younger members on to town committees.

February's monthly meeting on Sunday, February 19th will be in-person at West Concord Union Church. The speaker will be Holly Kuovo who will present "Plant the seeds now to Live more Actively in your 70's, 80's, and 90's." She will discuss the best changes you can make to improve the quality of your life and remain independent longer.