

Concord COA Board Meeting minutes  
March 18, 2021

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

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

Absent: Christina Kendrick, Margaret Hoag

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

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

Rod Riedel: yes  
Kristin Nelson: yes  
Patty Keane: yes  
Carol Ann Hannan: yes  
Carole Cushing: yes  
Michael Rudd: yes

Finance Committee (Andrea Zall). Andrea noted that there has not been a FinCom meeting recently.

Minuteman Report (Margaret Hoag). No report.

Concord Housing Authority (Rod Riedel). Rod discussed zoom issues that arose in the meeting: can the final interview for a new ED be in person or must it be on zoom; when they will be able to hold live meetings; the meeting was 'zoom bombed' and although the individual was removed, it was disruptive. Some other issues discussed included: Everett Garden bathroom upgrades will proceed; Because of economic upset last year, there were challenges in calculating tenant incomes; there will be a Covid vaccination clinic at the Peter Bulkeley house. There was a question regarding leftover vaccines and whether CHA board members might be eligible? It was decided that they might be considered but would have to meet vaccination criteria.

Disability Commission. Ginger reported (via Lauren) that the Disability Commission received an updated report from the middle school and discussed recommendations for accommodating the disabilities.

Concord after 60 (Teri Stokes). There have been two recent meetings: one was a poetry slam and one was an event with the Cheese Shop. The latter was a great example of a collaboration between a local merchant (The Cheese Shop) and the senior community. The Cheese Shop was able to sell their wares and offer a COVID-friendly fun activity for a group.

Concord Housing Development Corp. (Michael Rudd). Christopher Heights is still arranging financing and won't be done until September. There was some discussion about the open space at Junction Village that they will be making available to the town as recreation space. The town has set up task force to look into what should be done with that space.

NMI/Starmet (Kristin Nelson). Kristin reported that the committee is finalizing the report and will be updating the select board in April.

Board of Health (Patty Keane). The BOH discussed the process and timeline for reopening schools, including pooled testing which has begun with funding from the state. There is on-going frustration about the inability for the town to receive and deploy more vaccines locally. They are trying to set up a regional group with other towns but need to be able to provide 750/day for this to be viable. The BOH gave high praise to the COA for the recent clinics held at their site. The BOH noted that they receive complaints about various businesses around town not complying with regulations and while they do investigate all complaints, there is limited ability for enforcement. The BOH has submitted a grant application to MDPH for 3 years funding to support public health measures across jurisdictions. They are unlikely to receive the grant since Concord is not a high-need town but were happy to submit it.

Public Works (Rod Riedel). Rod said that there was an extensive and impressive discussion of the town water system and what the town does to generate and safeguard our water supply. The committee also noted that if sidewalk snow removal damages mailboxes, residents can call the town (the snow desk) to have the mailbox repaired or replaced. Finally, they discussed that they will be making safety and accessibility improvements at the intersection of Hubbard and Walden (by the PO) with the addition of curb cuts, new ramps, and new sidewalks. Recycling department is giving an interesting presentation to town groups that may be of interest to seniors. He will request a copy to be shared with the COA.

PEG Access (Carole Cushing). Carole discussed the on-going confusion in finding programming on the PEG Access channel. The Concord COA has a regular slot – which is typically listed in the COA newsletter – but is otherwise hard to find. It does not show up on the Minuteman Media Network tv guide. They do not have a live access feed but are fortunately looking into getting one. Ginger has articles about the MMN and movies that are being shown in the newsletter.

Transportation. No report.

Chair Report. At the Chair's breakfast, Susan put in a plug to fill in the COA vacancies.

Select Board Report (Susan Bates). Susan noted that the Board is aware of the frustration regarding vaccine supply and the efforts to set up a regional vaccine center. Annual budgets have been submitted by the town's three budgeting entities and they came in at the guideline recommended by Fincom. The Select Board is trying to figure out how to transition to in-person committee meetings at some point – noting that participation is much higher with zoom. There was a major legal decision in Concord's favor with the water supply at Nagog Pond. As a result of the decision, the town will now invest in water treatment at that source. The town warrant will close next week and begin to prepare for hearings.

Director's Report.

- The COA is entering into arrangement with Open Table who has received a grant to distribute heart healthy prepared meals to seniors twice a month. Only 4 seniors have signed up at this point.
- There is a radiologist-oncologist who has been doing research on COVID who will be doing a presentation on April 8. Concord COA will collaborate with neighboring COAs to ensure a good sized attendance.

- Vaccine report: 2 clinics have been held with BOH (covering 100 people; 20 homebound; 140 people.) COA has done or is preparing for second dose clinics for these groups. West Concord Pharmacy had leftovers after CHA clinic and offered COA 50 doses. Although this was very last minute, the COA was able to make many calls to folks in their database and ensure that the doses were not wasted. They will be arranging second doses for these folks as well.
- COA will now help people who need transportation to a mass site or will help them get an appointment at a closer site.
- Remember: CVS has their own supply that is not from state but rather is from federal government. People can book these directly on CVS website.
- Ginger is taking time off in April. Lauren will join next month's meeting, assuming it doesn't conflict with her Disability Committee liaison responsibilities.

Other.

Susan noted that Lexington and Concord are collaborating on a virtual event for Patriots day, broadcast on Minuteman Network.

Motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Carole Cushing. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Rod Riedel: yes

Kristin Nelson: yes

Teri Stokes: yes

Patty Keane: yes

Carol Ann Hannan: yes

Michael Rudd: yes

Carole Cushing: yes