

Concord Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2019

Present: Michael Rudd, Milton Cohen, Patty Keane, Ginger Quarles, Carol Ann Hannan, Sharyn Lenhart, Arthur Alcaez, Christina Kendrick, Margaret Hoag (MSS liaison member), and Terry Acherman (liaison from the Select Board)

Absent: Kristin Nelson, Carole Cushing, Ann Schummers,

The Minutes from last month were approved with one minor revision.

Concord Housing Authority Report:

The conversions from HUD are continuing. When the conversions are finished, the CHA will be on their own. The town plans to develop one unit on the Gerow property. The resident will be chosen by lottery.

The goal of the housing authority is to provide for residents who want to stay in Concord. Concord residents are given priority.

CHA currently uses the CHAMP system, a centralized agency for filling housing. This system causes delays.

Disability Commission Report:

There were a lot of visitors at the May 7th meeting including Terry Acherman, Kate Hodges and the Fire Chief. The commission has been changed to a Committee. There was discussion regarding the term limits for members of the committee. The same town rules apply. Terry confirmed that two long-term members of the Disability Commission have been reappointed.

The Fire Chief recommended the Knox Box lock box. The Fire Department keeps keys on the trucks and there is a strobe light to signal need to return the key so it is always available. There is money in the town budget for lock boxes.

The Commission is still looking into the bike sharing along the rail trail.

The materials have been ordered for the 55 Church Street entrance accommodation. The estimated completion time is 4-6 weeks.

Issues with some of the doors on Main Street are being addressed.

The commission is creating a brochure on disabilities.

There was a complaint regarding the Bank of America door being too heavy. It was suggested that the bank install a doorbell.

Minuteman Report:

Margaret reported that the new head of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs is Elizabeth Chen from Lexington.

Minuteman Board made a few changes to the By-Laws including creating a Board Development Committee. The Board is looking for new Members at Large with special skills. The Board will be receiving the Strategic Plan draft in August or September. The Board voted on the fiscal year 2020 budget.

Director's Report:

- Town offices will be closed on July 5 in recognition of Independence Day weekend.
- A few of the COA employees will alternate working longer hours during the week and take Friday afternoon off. The COA will never be closed.
- The air conditioners are being replaced. There will be three weeks without air conditioning. Large portable units have been leased to help keep the temperatures down. Project will hopefully be completed by the end of this month.
- Ginger and Kate had a meeting with the Friends President and Vice President in March. The President and Vice President will be coming for a tour on July 2nd in order to learn about what the COA does.
- Hoarding Task Force for Concord. What is the legal liability of the Town toward hoarders? Last week Town Counsel came to the task force to discuss these issues. The Town has a lot of latitude in how they handle hoarding cases. Going forward the Task Force will be proposing some guidelines for the Town to adopt. COA is about to start a hoarders support group/workshop called "Buried in Treasure." If at least 15 seniors sign up the workshop will go forward. Currently 18 people are signed up.

Old Business:

None.

Membership:

Michael thanked Sharyn for her service.

The Board elected Carol Ann as Chair.

Michael Rudd was elected as new Secretary.

Arthur Alcares will serve another year on the Disability Commission

Patty Keane will serve another year on the Concord Housing Authority.

New Business:

Terry Ackerman suggested that we invite the head of the Concord Housing Authority to a meeting to answer all our questions. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea.

Carol Ann discovered that the COA minutes had not been posted. She learned that the Town is way behind. They have posted all our minutes now and will work on the Housing Authority next.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2019 at 5:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.