

## COA Board Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2021

Attendees: Marge Ackerman, Alice Benson (associate member), Betsey Boyd, Jane Donnelly, Susan Ruskin Friend, Bob Froh, Linda Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Jean MacQuiddy, Mignonne Murray, Tom Nicholson, Carol Ott, Prather Palmer, , Vida Goldstein (associate member), Teresa Young (associate member).

Absent: Melissa Galton (associate member), Gerri Scoll.

Residents: James Polando, Chair, Weston Permanent Building Committee

Due to the suspension of in-person public meetings during the Covid-19 Emergency, this meeting was held via zoom and recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

No resident concerns or comments were expressed.

January board meeting minutes were approved after Linda asked that her name be deleted as an attendee and organizer of the Awareness signage field trip.

Treasurer's Report: (Prather) No new Treasurers report this month, Mignonne has not been able to make the changes from last meeting and asked we deferred the last two monthly reports for approval at our meeting next month.

Director's Report: (Mignonne)

Mignonne gave numerous examples of how the Massachusetts vaccine rollout process has been extremely bumpy and frustrating. Last month the town of Weston's Health Department tried to make the registration easier by creating a Signup Genius for Weston residents to register with the town for the vaccine. Since last month the COA has been fielding hundreds of calls with vaccine questions. To date the town has conducted two vaccine clinics, one at the Brook School and one at the COA (the COA was able to serve over 90 people). Since then, the state has taken the vaccine distribution away from local cities and towns to focus on the larger Mass sites such as Gillette and Fenway.

Mignonne also shared the frustration over the state's vaccine policies and website posting which change frequently, sometimes multiple times a day, and many of these policies and changes have come as a surprise to the COA. An example being the companion buddy system which would allow a companion driving a senior to also receive a vaccination. The COA has already established a program for volunteers to drive seniors to their appointments.

The COA has created a list of homebound Weston residents who would require a home visit to receive a vaccination. The COA has passed this information along to the Weston Health Department. The town now has the guidance they need to conduct home visits.

The COA office staff (an onsite, senior facing staff) is currently not listed as a high priority to receive the vaccine, however the vehicle drivers who interface with seniors daily have been vaccinated.

## **Chair Reports**

FCOA: (Betsey) There is no FCOA update, the next update will follow their quarterly board meeting in March 19.

### Community Connections: (Vida)

The Community Connections committee was approached to see if they would like to incorporate the Awareness and Hospitality committees, after some discussion it was decided the merger will not take place and the committees will remain autonomous.

Vida announced upcoming meeting topics and guest speakers:

- Unexpected Medical costs. Examples of unexpected medical costs might be expensive medical bills for an ambulance ride, the use of an anesthesiologist out of network, or when you go to the E.R. and are under observation. Prather has been in touch with Katherine Clark's office and is pursuing a speaker to address this topic.
- They are currently looking for a podiatrist to speak on foot issues, the criteria is not only to be a good foot doctor, but also a good speaker.
- They are also looking for someone to speak on prostate gland disorder.
- Dr. Mihir Kamdar, Division of Palliative care in the Pain Center at Mass General Hospital will be speaking on pain management and medical marijuana.
- Marian Ryan, Middlesex County District Attorney will be giving another presentation on Scams.
- Weston resident, Shirley Small-Rougeau (who was recently featured in the Weston Neighbors magazine) is developing a program on diversity, inclusion and antiracism. Shirley has experienced some uncomfortable occurrences in Weston and would like to create a similar diversity task force in Weston as an established program in Lincoln. The board was asked if they would like to be involved in this conversation with Shirley in pursuing this topic. The Council on Aging would take the lead and include other organizations and interfaith groups in town Weston. Tom Nicholson said he and his wife have been involved for more than 20 years in the Weston Wayland Interfaith Action Group WWIAG and suggested they could be another support group. Jane added that she took a social justice course through St. Julia's last summer and is very supportive of this initiative. The COA Board collectively was very supportive of this opportunity to educate our board and would like to be part of the meeting with two guest speakers.
- Vida mentioned that her daughter has created two workshops on Facebook Live on this very topic will send links to all the board members.

Governance: (Susan)

The Governance Committee would like to increase the number of associate members from 4 to 5. Tom Nicholson will be retiring from the board this year and we would like to retain him. The board voted unanimously to increase the number of associate members from 4 to 5.

The Governance Committee discussed combining the Welcoming, Awareness and Community Connections group. After discussion it was decided not to merge the groups. Linda Johnson and Carol Ott have agreed to co-chair the Awareness Group.

The Governance committee has received mission statements from almost all of the committees, and they will start presenting them at our next meeting.

Housing: (Alice) Alice announced that on Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a town wide webinar where the Housing Production Plan will be presented. She encouraged all to attend and to spread the word to others.

Alice reported that a consultant representing a Senior facility/housing developer reached out to Imai to discuss Weston opportunities, however after meeting with the consultant, it was clear she was unaware of some of the challenges they would face developing in Weston.

Transportation: (Jean/Jane) The Transportation Committee Mission Statement is being developed. Jane is trying to get information on the Ride and minority owned Taxi companies but having challenges getting information from the state's website.

MWRTA – Jean reported that a trial “Microtransit” program in Wellesley was underway, operating from 6:45am – 6:45 pm Monday through Friday. Riders can travel anywhere in Wellesley, initially free but eventually they’ll charge \$3. Jean also mentioned that the MWRTA bus ridership going West hasn’t been successful.

Springwell: (Jean) A new Director of Nutrition, Dalia Cohen who seems to have elevated the culinary offerings at Springwell and Meals on Wheels. There was also a Financial presentation by the CFO. Springwell seems to be in very good financial shape. They’ve received generous contributions from the Cares Act have kept them strong.

Needs Assessment: (Tom) Tom has written the Mission Statement. They did not meet last month but there will be a meeting before the next board meeting.

Awareness: (Carol) Carol and Linda had a “phenomenally” productive meeting with Vida and John from Community Connections, they learned more about the CC history, and discovered their mission statements seems to be very similar, with overlap it was a very helpful meeting. Carol and Linda will continue to work on the Awareness mission statement.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Next meeting is March 18 at 8:30 am.

