

## COA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 20 April 2023

This hybrid meeting was called to order at 8:31am by Chair Linda Johnson. She read the new introduction required by the Commonwealth:

*Under current state law public bodies may continue holding hybrid and fully remote meetings, without a quorum of the public body physically present, as long as adequate, alternative access is provided. Information about how to join a hybrid or fully remote hearing will be included in the required Open Meeting Law posting.*

**Present:** Alice Benson, Betsey Brew Boyd, Jane Donnelly, Paul Foley, Sue Ruskin Friend, Bob Froh, Vida Goldstein, Joan Heilbronner (Vice Chair), Linda Johnson (Chair), Brian Kardon, Jean MacQuiddy, Tom Nicholson (Associate Member), Carol Ott, Prather Palmer, Shirley Small Rougeau (Associate Member), and Joan Ingersoll (Director, ex officio)

**Absent:** Wayne Johnson, Sue Pauker and Gerri Scoll (Associate Member)

**Guests:** Lorraine Alexander and Elmer Hamilton

**Resident Concerns and Comments:** None

### Review and Approve Minutes

[The minutes of the meeting on March 16, 2023 were approved unanimously as submitted.](#)

### Director's Report (Joan Ingersoll)

Joan reviewed her efforts during her first month on the job to learn about the staff, budget and operations; become acquainted with residents, and establish connections with other organizations in town.

### Housing Committee Report (Alice Benson)

Recent activities have included a meeting with the president and CFO of Regis College to discuss their interest in senior housing and another with Ted Tye, the founder of National Development and the builder of Waterstone in Lexington. Board members were invited to join an up-coming tour of that facility.

Alice also met with the Friends of Weston Affordable Housing (FOWAH), a new group organizing to advocate for more housing options in town. This group has requested the COA Board support their application for organizational consultant funding from the Citizens Housing and Planning Assn.(CHAPA). Alice explained that at the meeting, the group decided to change their name to Friends of Weston Housing and expressed enthusiasm for serving as a hub to bring all the various housing groups in Weston together to increase their impact. Currently, it is very difficult to get momentum on housing with so many different housing groups and soon the Unified Planning Committee will be joining the fray.

Alice also talked with Sarah Rhatigan, Chair of the Weston Affordable Housing Trust, and said Sarah was very predisposed to support this group. There was a question about whether they were ready to ask for support. Alice said they were in very early stages with a lot TBD, but at this point they are trying to get some financial support for a consultant to help develop a mission statement and further their planning.

[Alice recommended that we support the Friends of Weston Housing application to CHAPA. It was so moved, seconded and approved unanimously.](#)

### **Unified Planning Committee Update (Joan Heilbronner)**

Governance Committee recommended that Danielle Salvucci Black be appointed the COA's designee to the UPC. It was so moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

### **Governance Committee Report (Joan Heilbronner)**

Recruitment: one candidate has dropped out which leaves five. Linda and Joan will start interviews with candidates next week. The Select Board timetable for appointments to fill board vacancies is still TBD.

GovCom recommended current officer terms be extended for another year: Linda (Chair), Joan (Vice Chair) and Prather (Treasurer). Other nominations may be submitted to Joan prior to the next GovCom meeting on May 9 when the officer slate will be finalized. The Board will vote on the slate at the May 18 meeting.

### **Strategic Initiative Committee Report (Tom Nicholson)**

Members were encouraged to review the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) summary draft and forward comments to Wayne and Tom. Work on 5 domains will continue and include Danielle Black in advance of the UPC getting cranked up in the fall. SIC is working with Joan I to align strategic plan efforts and staff goal setting.

### **FCOA (Betsey Brew Boyd)**

The FCOA Board is down to 4 members and in need of Board candidates including a new Treasurer; they would like to have 5-7 members. They recently voted to extend Holly Tolley's chairmanship for one more year. Betsey will join Friends board when she rolls off COA Board at end of June. Fall appeal letter went out in November and as of February had yielded 20k with a block grant of 15k going to the COA. Another 11k was donated directly to the COA.

### **Celebrate Weston (Betsey Brew Boyd)**

Details of event on 5/20 were reviewed and everyone was encouraged to sign up for 90 minute shifts to help represent the COA.

### **Other Business**

Paul reported he'd connected with Chaiwoo Lee at the MIT AgeLab who was very enthusiastic about meeting with us. Paul is working on scheduling.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32am.

### **Next Meeting:**

May 18, 2023 at 8:30am

*Respectfully submitted by Linda M. Johnson  
15 May 2023*