

KINGSTON COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m. at the Kingston Senior Center and broadcast on Local Seen with Zoom available for those not able to attend. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present: Caty Starr-Chairman, Donna Weinberg-Vice Chair, Maureen Elwood (Zoom), Mary Harriman, Joan Hutchison (Zoom), Kathy Studley and Associate Member, Lucy Colletta. Those absent: Mary Hayes

Other members present: Holly Nighelli, Director, Kingston Council on Aging

Announcements: Chairman, Caty Starr, announced that there are several volunteer positions at the Kingston Council on Aging for Meals on Wheels, Café help, Computer Skills and for the new season of the Senior Tax Write Off Program. Reach out to the Director of the COA, if interested. Reminder that the email of the COA Advisory Board is coa-ab@Kingstonma.gov.

Open Forum: There was no discussion at open forum.

Secretary Report: A motion was made by Maureen Elwood to accept the Secretary Report of January 14, 2025. This was seconded by Mary Harriman. All were in favor.

New Business:

1. Update regarding OCPC Age and Dementia Friendly Contract: Holly Nighelli informed our Board that the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Town.
2. Age and Dementia Task Force Committee: Holly informed our Board that Keith Hickey, Town Administrator, has requested our Board to draft another letter to Town identifying who should serve on this committee. After discussion, our Board decided there should be at least 12 members needed and all agreed on the following:
 - Advisory Board representative/Emeritus of COA Advisory Board
 - Selectmen representative
 - COA Director
 - Town Planner/Town Clerk
 - Emergency Response Representative (police, fire, etc.)
 - Representative from BID Plymouth
 - Community member with knowledge of dementia-friendly efforts
 - Business community member
 - Teacher
 - Clergy
 - Veteran's Agent
 - Surrounding Town Participants having participated in these studies:
 - Joanne Moore-COA Director, Duxbury
 - Board of Health
 - Banker
 - Wingate Facility Kingston representative
 - Housing Authority

Caty will draft letter to Keith including above suggestions to committee.

3. Caty reviewed the proposed revisions by our Board of the COA Board Policies and Procedures suggested from our last meeting. These revisions will mirror all By Laws. After discussion, a motion was made by Mary Harriman to approve these updated revisions. Maureen Elwood seconded and all were in favor. Caty will send this updated document to the Town for review and approval.

Director's Report: See report attached. Holly Nighelli spoke about the following:

1. The Fiscal Year, 2026, budget has been reviewed by the Town Administrator and the Finance Committee and was approved as presented at the Finance Committee meeting on February 5, 2025.
2. Regarding New Programming: A new Line Dancing Class run by Maureen Godding is having a demo on February 21, 2025. The regular classes will begin on March 7, 2025 at 10:30 a.m., \$5.00 fee with sign up ahead. In addition, another class, Memory Training, run by OCES, will start on April 15, 2025, free of charge, for four consecutive weeks, with sign up ahead.
3. Holly announced there will be an AARP Livable Communities special one-hour presentation on a General Age-Friendly Overview to be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the COA, run by Sam Docknevich. This will be open to all, elected officials, citizen activists and all those who want to learn about how to make our community more livable and accessible to all. This presentation will give the community an insight as to what our current Age and Dementia Study is all about that Kingston is now preparing for, including: policies that make neighborhoods walkable, transportation options, enabling access to services, provide opportunities to participate in community activities, and supporting housing that's affordable and adaptable.
4. Holly informed us of her appointment as COA Director on the agenda at tonight's Select Board meeting, Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Chairman's Report: None.

Old Business:

1. Another discussion was held regarding our Board members term expiration and future planning. Caty clarified that Lucy Colletta's Associate Member term is up in June, 2025, this year. Lucy will have to go through same process as rest, expressing her interest to COA Board, our Board voting and then approval from Town Select Board. Lucy also expressed interest in joining the Board as a voting member. Caty will be not be renewing her term which ends in June. Caty also encouraged others in our community to contact our Board with interest of joining and sit in on meetings, which is open to all. Kathy Studley and Donna Weinberg still expressed interest in renewing their term as their positions both expire in June. We will vote in June for any new interested members to fill any openings, renewals and officers.
2. Joan Hutchison reminded us of the scam relating to EZ Pass that she and others have received through texting to our cell phones showing we owe money and to reply. As we discussed in a previous COA Board meeting, it is advised not to open up any links on these texts.

Other Business: Remembered, a special prayer and get well wishes for Mary Hayes and Mike LaNatra.

Next Regular Meeting: Next regular COA Advisory Board meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 11:30 a.m., at the Kingston Senior Center.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting at 12:07 p.m. by Caty Starr, seconded by Kathy Studley. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Weinberg, Vice Chair COA Advisory Board and Interim Secretary