

KINGSTON COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
APRIL 8, 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, Lucy Colletta, Maureen Elwood, Joan Hutchison (Zoom) and Kathy Studley. Those absent: Mary Harriman.

Other members present: Holly Nighelli, Director, Kingston Council on Aging. Other guests included, Virginia Bennett, Deb Bruno, Mary Jane Cahill, Keith Chase and Gail DeThomaso.

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: A few of the guests expressed interest in our COA Board.

Secretary Report: A motion was made by Maureen Elwood to accept the Secretary Reports of both the February and March, 2025, COA Advisory Board Meetings. This was seconded by Donna Weinberg. All were in favor.

New Business:

1. Caty Star welcomed Lucy Colletta, former Non-Voting Associate Member, to our COA Advisory Board, as a Voting Member. Lucy was recently appointed to this position at the Kingston BOS meeting, Tuesday, March 25, 2025.
2. Caty Star informed our Board that at tonight's BOS meeting, Tuesday, April 8, 2025, two items recommended and voted for by our COA Advisory Board at our last meeting would be on the BOS agenda up for approval. These two items are first for the approval for updates we made to our Policies and Procedures and secondly for the approval to change the hours of operation of the Senior Center, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Kathy Studley volunteered to sit in at BOS meeting with Holly Nighelli, Director, COA to support these items.
3. Holly Nighelli updated our Board on the next steps for the Age and Dementia study. Holly is working with Joanne Zygmunt, Senior Planner of OCPC, who is facilitating and moving forward with study. The working group has already been established. Twelve out of the fourteen members originally contacted to participate have now accepted to be part of this group. The first meeting scheduled for this group to get together will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be held the first Monday of every month moving forward. This first meeting will be an opportunity for everyone in group to meet each other and learn about the scope of the project. The updated list of members of this working group are as follows:

- COA Advisory Board representative-Kathy Studley
- Selectmen representative-Eric Crone
- COA Director-Holly Nighelli
- Town Planner/Town Clerk-Valerie Massard and Paul Gallagher
- Emergency Response Representative-Heath Howell
- Board of Health Representative-Janet Wade, BOH Consultant-former BOH member
- Representative from BID Plymouth-Karen Peterson, Manager, Community Benefits & Community Relations
- Community member with knowledge of dementia-friendly efforts-Ellyn McSweeney
- Kingston Business Association representative-TBD
- School Representative-Jill Proulx, Superintendent, Silver Lake Regional School District
- Clergy/Faith Group-Tyler DeCost-Business Manager Sts. Mary and Joseph Collaborative (Kingston and Plymouth)
- Housing Authority-Dede Riendeau-TBD
- Neighborworks Housing Solutions-Julie Lane, Director of Lending

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

1. Upcoming Programs at COA:
 - Real Pirates of Salem-Museum curators will speak about shipwrecks and treasures off coast of Cape Cod, Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Train Your Brain, Thursday, April 17, 2025-Now Full
 - AARP Identity Theft Presentation, Monday, April 28, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
 - Resin Art Class-Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
 - Mother's Day Luncheon-Thursday, May 8, 2025-in May Newsletter
 - Triad returning-Friday May 30, 2025-Subject: Comfort Dogs
2. Staff Updates:
 - Transportation is still busy with 275 rides to seniors in March, 2025. Despite being down two van drivers, Patti keeping up on scheduling and dispatching rides. Joe Barkas is retiring on April 18, 2025. Interviews for new van drivers are now in process, and we are checking references on two prospective candidates, next step, final two appointed at April 22, 2025, Select Board meeting.
 - Holly Nighelli has been interviewing candidates for Assistant Director position. The final chosen candidate will also be appointed at the April 22, 2025, Select Board meeting.
 - Jenny Styers, Outreach Coordinator, has been reaching out to area organizations that we partner with to set up meetings to introduce herself. Also, she has been keeping up on changes to Social Security and is able to answer any questions about how this may affect seniors.

3. Senior Center Maintenance:

The first week of April, the outside walk-in freezer, the inside freezer and refrigerator were all serviced. The refrigerator needed a few new parts, and due to the timing of when the parts were available, and the installation, we had to close our café for a couple days. Holly Nighelli apologized for any inconvenience this had caused during that week, and is thrilled we are now up and running again.

Chairman's Report: None.

Old Business:

1. Caty Starr reviewed and discussed with our Board members term expiration and future planning. Donna Weinberg and Kathy Studley, whose terms are up end of June, are still interested in applying and continuing on the Board for another term. Caty's term is also up, but she is not returning and will be leaving at the end of June. We now will have need for another Board member (Voting Position) to replace her along with an opening for an Associate Member (Non-Voting) to replace Lucy who is now a Voting Board Member to replace Mary Hayes who resigned last month. A few guests in the audience expressed interest in joining our Board to fill the above two positions that are currently available. Those interested will communicate further with Town Clerk/Select Board. There will be further discussion at our next Board meeting in May.

Donna Weinberg spoke about our upcoming June election of new officers and wondered if any of our COA Advisory Board members present at today's meeting were interested in being nominated for an officer position such as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the new fiscal year. Maureen Elwood stated that she might be interested in Vice Chair. After discussion, the group decided to resume this discussion at our next meeting in May.

2. Friends Representative Update has been tabled to a future meeting.
3. COA Building Usage Agreement (rental agreement) and application review has been tabled to a future meeting.

Other Business: No remembrances at this time.

Next Regular Meeting: Next regular COA Advisory Board meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 11:30 a.m., at the Kingston Senior Center.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting at 12:12 p.m. by Donna Weinberg and seconded by Maureen Elwood. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Weinberg, Vice Chair COA Advisory Board and Interim Secretary