

# Town of Hingham



## Council on Aging Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
11:30 AM

**Remote meeting via Zoom:**  
Dial-in number: 929-436-2866  
**Meeting ID: 884 4001 2220**  
**Password 789785**

Zoom Link: <https://web.zoom.us/join>

This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

### Attending:

- David Alschuler (Chair)
- Cindy King – Frode
- Ethel Franks
- Karen Johnson
- Eleanor Letterie
- Terry MacDonald
- Joe Millburg
- Joe Nevins
- Jean Silverio
- Sara Smithson
- Deborah Sullivan (Secretary)
- Jennifer Young (DES Director)

### 1. Call to order at 11:33 am

- a. Quorum determined.
- b. Agreement that today's meeting will be recorded.

### 2. Chairman's Remarks - David Alschuler

- a. Welcome To Sara Smithson, new COA board member

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2022 Meeting**

- a. Motion to accept the minutes by Deb; seconded by Jean.
- b. Passed unanimously.

**4. Director's Report – Jennifer Young, Senior Center Director**

- a. Jennifer welcomed Sara Smithson
- b. Introduction by Sara Smithson with background information
- c. Introduction by board members to Sara Smithson
- d. Director's full report attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
- e. David has reviewed and updated the COA Op. Manual

**5. Committee Updates**

a. Marketing and Rebranding – Joe Nevins

- i. The committee is working with Hingham Historic Commission regarding idea of an oral history project allowing seniors to share their histories and experiences to share with others;
- ii. Exploring idea of an article to educate and stimulate interest in UMASS study to include changing faces of senior center and activities for future.

b. "Friends" Study Committee

- i. Nothing new to report

c. Volunteer Enrichment – Cindy King-Frode

- i. Cindy reported on outreach efforts to other comparable COA's regarding their offerings.
- ii. Cindy reviewed the COA newsletters of towns including Sharon, Duxbury, Bedford, Milton, Scituate and Belmont for programs and offerings.
- iii. Cindy provided a comprehensive list of offerings including support groups, fitness classes, outdoor exercise, dance, games, arts and crafts activities, art appreciation, on-site cooking classes, book group discussions, library events, weekly movies, foreign language skills, ipad

workshops, presentations by experts, men's club, current events discussions, among others.

- d. Senior Center Building Committee Report
  - i. Jean attended a recent meeting of the Budget Task Force and Senior Center project remains in running.
  - ii. Senior Center project remains visible and important to town.

#### **6. UMB Needs Assessments**

- a. Kick-off meeting occurred in January with David and Jennifer attending.
- b. Questions to be answered by study have been developed.
- c. Next steps include planning for next 10 plus years and how to address needs of community.
- d. The time frame for findings is October.
- e. Further report at next meeting.

#### **7. Open Board Seats**

- a. With addition of Sara Smithson we have a full board.
- b. However, Ethel's status as board member remains unknown given recent health issues.
- c. Need to fill Vice-Chair position
- d. Nominating Committee will reconvene in next month to address.

#### **8. Other Business – Tax Abatement Program**

- a. David addressed the Tax Abatement program and ways to increase awareness of program benefits and better utilization of program benefits for those in need.
- b. Discussion of program benefits and ways to qualify for program.
- c. Program is underutilized, could provide financial assistance to those in need.
- d. Desire by board get the information about the program out to the public at large and best way to accomplish that goal.
- e. David and Jennifer will obtain documentation for further review and discussion by board.

#### **9. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

**Next Meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a. m.**