

Minutes of COA Board Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Harriet Ahouse, Pearl Hines, Debra Mandel, Lily Owyang, Eva Paddock, Beverly Sealey

Board Members Absent: Mary DeCoursey, Eva Paddock, Joumathe Theodore

Staff Present: Geoff Kotowski, Vincent McCarthy and Susan Pacheco

Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 9:36 a.m.

Review/Acceptance of minutes: April 2025 meeting minutes were approved. Motion made by Deb and seconded by Pearl. All in favor.

Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

- Human Services Budget City Council hearing is scheduled for May 14th.
- Recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness month ~ scheduled events: Thursday, May 15th @ 1:00 pm, True Story Theater presents: Exploring Mental Health and Searching for Effective Support in our Older Adult Community. On Thursday, June 26th @ 1:00 pm, book discussion: You Are Not Alone – the NAME Guide to Navigating Mental Health by Ken Duckworth, MD. The discussion will be facilitated by ED and Maryellen McEleney. Limited copies of the book are available.
- COA in collaboration with Cambridge Public Library and Living Well Network for movie screening and discussion of: The Age of Love. Movie will be screened at main library on May 15th @ 4:00 pm.
- On May 6th, Governor Healey signed an [Executive Order](#) and released a new age-friendly state plan which will outline improved ways for Massachusetts agencies to serve older adults, following feedback gathered from across the state. In recognition of Older Americans Month, Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll and Aging & Independence Secretary Robin Lipson visited the Plymouth Center for Active Living to discuss how communities across the state can implement the new state plan.
- The Senate Ways and Means has released their FY26 Budget and it includes \$16 per elder for the COA Formula Grants!

At 9:56 am, a member of the public, Catiana, attended the meeting.

Cambridge Senior Center – Alicia Johnson

~ No Report as Alicia was on vacation.

North Cambridge Senior Center – Geoff Kotowski

- Geoff reported successful program trends. Trips, Documentary Photography, Lifelong Learning opportunities and culturally themed programs.
- Classes such as ESOL will take summer break. This program follows the academic calendar.
- Many classes will be on summer hiatus, as instructors take the summer off.
- Geoff announced his resignation from his position. He has accepted a new position for the Town of Carlisle.
- The Board recognized and thanked Geoff for all his years of service at the COA. All wishing him luck in his new endeavor.
- Geoff's last day is May 16th.

Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

- Vincent formally thanked Eva for her facilitation of the One Life screening. It was very well attended and thankful for sharing her lived experience.
- Very successful RX Take Back on April 28th. This is in collaboration with Cambridge Police and Cambridge Public Health.
- Shred Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th (9:30 am-1:00 pm); truck is parked directly in front of the Cambridge Senior Center.
- Looking ahead to Celebrating June as Pride month, COA partnering with LGBTQ+ Commission and host Film & Discussion ~ Double Feature. On Tuesday, 6/24 @ 10:00 am ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***. At 1:00 pm, ***A Nice Indian Boy*** will be screened.

Old Business: None

New Business: ED is working with the City Manager's office to publicize/recruit interested residents to serve on the COA Board. Letters of intent are due by June 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Susan Pacheco