

Minutes of COA Board Meeting Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Harriet Ahouse, Mary DeCoursey, Pearl Hines, Debra Mandel, Lily Owyang, Eva Paddock, Joumathe Theodore

Board Members Absent: Beverly Sealey

Staff Present: Alicia Johnson, Chris Kowaleski and Susan Pacheco

Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 9:45 a.m.

Review/Acceptance of minutes: Motion made by Eva and seconded by Deb to accept December 2025 minutes. All in favor.

Executive Director – Susan Pacheco

ED updated Board on happenings.

- COA programming at Russell Youth & Community Center has been successful. There have been 72 new registrants to the COA through Russell. The next phase of the program will start on February 5th and go through May 29th. It will stop then and resume in September. Please note that ED is attending this meeting while at the Russell Center. Today, we are hosting the 1st of a 3 workshop presented by History Cambridge.
- ED joined Assistant City Manager, Human Services, Ellen Semonoff at City Council Meeting on 12/15/26. The meeting served as a response to City Council Order exploring the need for an additional staff position at the COA to triage requests from older adult residents. The response, an additional staff person is not required currently. The COA has three staff in its Client Services, with varied educational degrees and licensures.
- ED shared with the Board that there will be changes with the meals program. Information cannot be shared at this time, but ED will share when able.
- There are currently two PT positions vacant. Both are Office Aides ~ COA and North Cambridge Senior Center. Job description to be reviewed and posted.

Cambridge Senior Center – Alicia Johnson

- On Thursday, January 8th, Alicia facilitated Activities Team Planning ~ Vision 2026 meeting. It was an exercise with staff to review past, current and future programming. Alicia will provide more information at the February meeting.
- Interviews for Food Service Manager are being conducted. The hope is to have person hired by March.

North Cambridge Senior Center – Christopher Kowaleski introduced as the new North Cambridge Senior Center. Chris' 1st day was January 5th.

Client Services – Vincent McCarthy

- There was no report, as Mr. McCarthy was out of office.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Deb motioned, and Joumathe seconded. All in favor.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Susan Pacheco