

TOWN OF SUDBURY  
COUNCIL ON AGING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 12, 2022  
3:30 PM

ALL COA MEETINGS ARE NOW RECORDED AND  
AVAILABLE ON SUDBURYTV.ORG

**COA meetings done over Town Zoom video  
Conference Account**

WEBSITE: <http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/CouncilOnAging/>  
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

**Present:** Chairman: Jeff Levine

**Members Present:** Anna Newberg, Bob Lieberman, Marilyn Tromer, Colin Warwick, Don Sherman, and Paul Marotta

**Members Absent:** **Carmine Gentile**

**Also Attending:** Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center via Zoom Jack Ryan (Sudbury Resident)

**Guests via Video:** Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV resource), Kay Bell (Chairperson of Commission on Disabilities)

**Meeting called to order** by Chairman Jeff Levine at 3:34 PM

Attendance by all those members above confirmed by roll-call affirmation.

**Approval of Minutes** from COA Meeting of November 14, 2022 –The COA unanimously approved by roll-call vote the minutes as submitted with amendments

**Director's Report: (Debra Galloway):** This month's update report was deferred until next month.

**Transportation Committee Report (Debra Galloway/Bob Lieberman):** Summary was given of the two recent Sudbury Select Board meetings which included specific questions to the Transportation Committee concerning data relative to the nature of rides for both the Go Sudbury Taxi and Uber programs. More specifically the requests included number of rides, destinations, pick up and drop off locations median cost of rides and Medicaid eligibility. It was reiterated by the Transportation Committee chair that certain information requested would need to be "sanitized" to ensure there were no HIPPA violations regarding rider confidentiality. Debra Galloway and Adam Duchesneau (Sudbury Director of Planning and Community Development) are scheduled to meet with the interim Town Manager to discuss whether the transportation program can be operationalized. Discussion will include consideration to move the management of the program to town staff and recommendations on funding on a going forward basis.

**Commission on Disability Report (Marilyn Tromer):** As the new liaison to the Commission on Disability (COD) Marilyn updated the COA on her recent efforts including the viewing of earlier COD meetings, reviewing programs previously presented and met with Kay Bell the chairperson of the COD for background on interaction with the COA. A report was given to update the COA on what the COD has been focused on since September of 2022. Topics included 1) Disability Awareness Campaigns held in October, Municipal ADA Improvement Grant applications endorsement, 3) Regular meeting with Sudbury Town Manager, 4) Membership and 5) COD has a member sitting on the Transportation Committee who provides a disability perspective. (See Exhibit A for further details)

**Tax Work-off Program Rate Increase (Galloway):** Discussion relative to the potential to increase the rate/credit from the current \$14.25 or minimum wage to the new rate of \$15 per hour effective January 1, 2023. After an exchange of points of view, a motion was raised by Don Sherman with a second from Paul Marotta to "recommend that payment automatically increase to the new minimum wage or higher as the COA Board sees fit consistent with the minimum wage now or in the future". The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. COA Chairperson Jeff Levine to send email communication to the Select Board for the rate increase effective January 1.

**Program Partnerships (Lieberman):** Update was given regarding the recent meeting Bob Lieberman and Jeff Levine had with Lara Vilahomat, the Framingham Public Library head of Outreach and Community Experience. She is responsible for "creating and implementing adult programs and events connecting with the Framingham community". Our discussion included the library relationship with Framingham State University (FSU) and adult programs including Adventures in Lifelong Learning courses and a lecture series given in the evening. FSU is responsible for the scheduling, planning and funding of the Lifelong Learning programs available on You Tube. They usually include 4 or 5 topics with each course running in a 4-week series. This course is currently funded through a grant from BayPath Elder Services. The library schedules and coordinates the in-person lectures. The Adventure series requires pre-registration with FSU as the contact, but the library does not require prior registration. In both cases there is no fee to attend.

This was a preliminary discussion with follow up needed with Anne Roberti, the Director of Community Education and Lifelong Learning at FSU. These meetings are designed to give the COA an understanding of programs that these two facilities coordinate and whether the Sudbury Senior Center could dovetail onto their programs and develop a partnership in anticipation of the opening of the new Fairbanks Community Center in the winter of 2023/ Spring of 2024.

**Succession Planning (Levine):** At the end of this fiscal year there will be open positions for the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary. Individual members were urged to consider applying for one of these positions with further follow up at next month's meeting.

**COA Goal Setting (Levine):** Discussion commenced on goal setting initiatives for the COA in the upcoming year. Specific topics mentioned were the need for the By-Laws to be updated as well as the Senior Center policies and procedures. After additional dialogue,

except for Colin Warwick it was agreed that the focus should be on three specific Policy areas to include 1) financial matters, 2) general day to day issues and 3) specific issues to be identified. The chair requested feedback with recommendations. Debra Galloway will review the policies and procedures to ensure they are all encompassing.

The members of the COA then began an exchange of thoughts concerning the construction of the new Fairbanks Community Center. Colin Warwick reiterated the importance of keeping the new construction on track. It was noted that the previous town administration did not include the community in certain decisions and all matters ran through town staff, The building concept did involve a member of the COA and Park and Recreation, but they were soon isolated from design conversation. To date the furniture and fixtures as well as audio visual equipment remains in flux. Sandra Duran Combined Sudbury School and Town Facilities Director is in the process of looking into the components of the building infrastructure from a comprehensive vs concession basis. Sandra will be scheduled to update the COA in the upcoming months.

Jack Ryan a Sudbury resident was recognized, and he discussed that the timing of change orders is key, importance of identifying problems as soon as possible and that active steps were being taken to alter the current process in place for a more timely resolution.

**Motion was made by Marilyn Tromer to adjourn.** Second by Anna Newberg.  
Unanimously approved by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 5:00 PM.

**The next regular meeting** is scheduled for 3:30PM on January 9, 2023, at the Senior Center with the agreement of all board members. Otherwise, the meeting will be hybrid via zoom. Viewable later on Sudbury TV (SudburyTV.org).

Respectfully submitted by

Robert Lieberman  
COA Secretary

# “Exhibit A”



## **What the Commission on Disability has been up to since September 2022**

### **Disability Awareness Campaigns – month of October**

1. COD collaborated with Goodnow Library and Sudbury Cooperative Preschool to deliver a virtual learning opportunity, Unlearning Ableism, and a festive in-person, family friendly event at Goodnow Library, Together We Play. These active awareness events reached 900 people.
2. COD visited 17 town committees and boards to deliver a brief message about Disability Etiquette with a few examples of best practice when interacting with people with a variety of disabilities. We also delivered dozens of International Disability Awareness Flag lapel pins to public servants around town.

### **Municipal ADA Improvement Grant applications endorsement**

1. Combined Facilities Director, Sandra Duran, and Interim Town Manager, Maryanne Bilodeau presented three draft grant requests intended to be submitted to Massachusetts Office on Disability within a few days. All were related to implementing projects to address issues enumerated in the ADA Transition Plan of July 2021.
2. The COD would have preferred to have the opportunity to participate in a prioritization process and made the best of it by offering a number of constructive questions and suggestions to improve the requests. The COD voted to endorse the three requests and produce letters of endorsement on quick turnaround.

### **Regular meeting with Town Manager**

1. Monthly “check-in” meetings have been revived after a lengthy suspension when the prior town manager departed.
2. Various technical, legal, procedural, and logistical questions are discussed among the Interim Town Manager, the COD Chair and the COD Vice Chair monthly. With no other staff assigned to the COD, this is a very useful contact.

### **Membership**

1. After a loss of four out of five “veteran members” to various life circumstances, early in 2022, the COD went through a complex process with town administration to fill in our ranks.
2. Of the five members who had joined the COD more recently (from late 2021 through June 2022) three have resigned, two due to other demands on their time, and one to continue working on accessibility and inclusion in the public non-profit sector.
3. Currently there are three applicants “in the pipeline.”

#### **Other**

1. COD has a member sitting on the Transportation Committee who provides a disability perspective and direct support to development of transportation programs.
2. COD received a presentation from Sudbury Youth Soccer Association on an inclusive and adaptive soccer program called TOPSoccer. It had been piloted in the fall with great success. The COD voted to endorse their application to the Sudbury Foundation for full program launch funds. We wrote the letter on a quick turnaround.

#### **Goals**

1. The currently serving members have been considering how to develop an abbreviated set of goals for next five months.

Submitted by Kay Bell, COD Chair

12-07-22