

Council on Aging (COA) Advisory Board

Minutes from Meeting Monday February 9th 2026 at 9:00AM

At Lowell Senior Center

Roll Call/Sign - In: In attendance: Frank Baskin, Maxine Farkas, Gilda James, Beverly Gonsalves (Recorder) Andy Hostetler on phone, Molyka Tieng, Erin Gendron & Judy Huber. Excused Richard Demers.

II Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of the January 12, 2026 minutes: First by Judy, second by Frank, all others were in favor.

IV. Director's Report: Aurora Erickson sitting in for Kimberly Gagnon. Aurora gave an update on the Heritage. The current company that does the printing was bought out. A new one was found immediately which will work better for us, but the Law Department has to review it. It may take a few months to get on board because of the advertising involved in the newsletter and to make changes. The Heritage will be available on the City Website.

Erin asked for a list of places where the Heritage is dropped off. Also it was asked how many do we have printed each month. Aurora said 3,000 copies.

V. Chairperson's Report

Maxine started a Birthday Fundraiser on Facebook and funds will be processed by Friends. A total of \$600.00 was raised and given to Friends. Aurora needs more money for programing, we do not know what will happen in the future. A lot of Senior centers have money to cover their budget but the COA Board should help raise money for programming. The Exercise class does cover some of its costs. Aurora was asked to prepare a list of programs she would like to run. .

VI Committee & Liaison Reports:

a. Grant updates: Maxine said that \$5,000.00 has been received from the Lowell Cultural Council but no other grant has been received. She does not know how much we will receive for 2027. Aurora is the Program Director but she did not get anything for this year from the Lowell Cultural Council. She has nothing to work with.

b. Outreach Committee:

c. Liaison reports/connections with other local/regional agencies.

Aurora, Molyka and Erin spoke about the programming here at the Senior Center.

Frank did speak about funding and budget for the Senior Center. He also commented about other Senior Centers open at night like in Hew York. Frank has written updates in the Heritage in the December and January issues to keep everyone informed about how the COA is doing

and any updates.

d. Healthy Aging Committee: Andy mentioned the Happy to Chat Bench. Molyka said that there should be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the introduction. Andy is working with the city on this.

VII Items for Discussion:

Old Business: State Budget: Frank said that we do not know where we are with the Budget, but EMHOT should have a dollar amount per person.

Erin said that there is no decision about Walgreens.

It was mentioned that someone should come in from Outreach to speak about MASS Health.

Senior Center Working Group Formation: Maxine said that we should show up at the City Council meeting to show our support of the Senior Center.

VIII OTHER

Lynn Dailey brought up the suggestion to make the Mayor of Lowell an honorary member of the Lowell Council on Aging. It was suggested that this could be brought up at the Friends Board meeting, since the COA Board is appointed by the city not something we can do.

Possible Group Picture: It was taken of the LCOA, all were in attendance.

IX Adjournment

First by Molyka, second by Judy, all others were in favor.

Next meeting: Monday March 9, 2026 @ 9:00 AM