

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, August 7, 2026

Present: Pina Mingace, Daisy Monsalve, Leslie Hergert, Dan Cronin, Ellen Ellis, Marian Bremer, Chris Lindgren, Maclise Jean

Council on Aging Staff present: Ashley Speliotis, Natasha Naim

Location: This meeting was held in person at the Holland Street Senior Center, located at 167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA 02144. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

The Council's primary responsibility is to advise the Council on Aging in the promotion and implementation of programs and services to address the needs of the community's older population.

1. Call to order: 11:05am
2. Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes approved by Ellen Ellis, seconded by Leslie Hergert.
3. New Business
 - Board acknowledges Councilor Kristen Strezo who has joined the meeting via zoom.
 - Board nominates the Councilor to speak. She shares of a community meal opportunity at Somerville's Greek Orthodox Church. Their new community staff liaison can share more details and may stop by the meeting. There is also a new community fridge location at the church.
 - Frank Schiavone from the church then arrived. He shares they provide dinner to a group of seniors on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 4-5:30pm. They also provide transportation with pick-up locations at Burton Faulkner Towers and Davis square at 3:30pm. Contact information is: phone: 617-625-2222 or officeadmin@dormationchurch.org.
 - Review of City Ordinance
 - Board unanimously agreed to delay speaking about the ordinance until the September meeting. Leslie shared that each member was placed into a different term length. Ashley will reach out to the Clerk to determine everyone's start date.
4. Directors Report

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- COA/MassSenior Action Listening Session Update
 - Session held at Properzi Manor on 8/6/26. Staff from SCES also present as they are onsite and provide a breakfast. About 10 residents participated, most feedback focused on the building itself, use of the community room/tv.
 - Meeting with mobility at Ciampa Manor also reviewed. There, residents expressed their frustration with the removal of parking in front of the building. Mobility suggested shortening the loading zone and putting in an additional handicapped space. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in September. Board discussed the need to give Mobility feedback, for example reasoning of why traffic calming measures were placed in certain locations. Board requests the mobility department be invited back in November.
 - Chris introduced the idea of investigating private industries for assistance with transportation. For instance, Waymo is currently running a pilot program in Somerville which provides lower cost fares in exchange for helping to market their program and helping to dispel fears of driverless technology.
- Senior Picnic
 - The Senior Picnic will be held on September 10th; all are invited to participate and volunteer during the event. Shirts and tickets handed out. Arrival time to volunteer will be 10:30am. Reviewed volunteer positions and staff at each position.

5. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm
6. Next Meeting: September 4, 2026 at 11:00am