COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, October 2, 2026

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

Council on Aging Staff present: Ashley Speliotis, Connie Lorenti

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.

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1. Call to order: 11:04am

2. Approval of Minutes
   - Minutes approved by Pina Mingace, seconded by Tania Mederios.

3. New Business

   - Review of City Ordinance
     - Topic postponed until the November meeting.

   - Review of Postcard Distribution Plan
     - Postcards have been in distribution since September at the Senior Picnic. Dan shared a sample of a flyer to post with the cards and has brought some cards to locations throughout the city. To date the COA has not received any cards back.

4. Directors Report

   - Outreach with Ciampa Manor
     - A follow up meeting with Mobility and the residents of Ciampa Manor was held. Residents agreed to shorten the unloading zone which would create an additional handicapped parking spot. They will also change the loading zone time maximum to 30 minutus. Next, the Mobility Department will present this idea to the traffic commission.

- Board discussed the importance of residents having the opportunity to have their voices heard. Board requested that the Mobility Department be invited back to the board meeting. Board also requested that bike lanes be discussed.

- Tufts Intergenerational Product
  - Tufts has been in touch with the COA and students have selected to work on two projects: a tool to help open fruit cup containers and an app to help older adults with low vision.
- Social Benefits Fair
  - On October 7th the social workers will be hosting a new program, a Social Benefits Fair. Unlike at other fairs residents will be able to sit with participating organizations to apply for benefits on site. Participating groups will be: MassHealth, DTA, Fuel Assistance, Office of Housing.

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