

TOWN OF MAYNARD SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE **Meeting Minutes**

October 17, 2024, 7pm

FINAL 10/24/2024

Zoom Meeting Only (fully remote) *(This public meeting was recorded.)*

Present:

Deb Roussell, Vice Chair
Dan Shields, Clerk
Mary Mitzcavitch
Paul Guthrie

Jack MacKeen
Mark Koenig
Amy Loveless
Linda Holt (Liaison, FinComm)

Absent: Jerry Culbert, Chair; Mary Ann Bassett; Joshua Morse; Stephanie Duggan; Chris DiSilva (Liaison, Select Board)

Guests: none

1. Meeting Opening

Deb Roussell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes for 10/03/2024: Dan Shields noted a change suggested by Jack MacKeen to remove a clause from the second bullet point under “141 Parker”. **A motion was made** by Mary Mitzcavitch and seconded by Amy Loveless to approve the Minutes, as amended. **Motion carried 6-0** with one abstention.

3. Working Group Report: Real Estate Working Group

- **Short Term Leased Space** (Mill & Main, Maynard Crossing, 141 Parker): Deb noted we are waiting for Greg Johnson to decide whether or not to create an RFP.
- **Short Term Activity Space** (High School): Amy Loveless noted that she, Jerry Culbert, Deb Roussell, and Jack MacKeen, along with COA Board Chair Mary Ann Shields, met with Brian Haas (Maynard Public Schools Superintendent) to tour an unused classroom in Maynard HS with a size of about 1,200 sq.ft. This classroom has an exterior entry and possibly could be used as an “offsite activity space” for Senior Center programs. There’s also an adjacent kitchen facility which is sometimes used for cooking clubs and other HS activities. Plenty of parking is readily available (including marked handicapped spaces), with lots of windows, chairs, etc. Amy noted she is following up with Brian Haas on this potential opportunity and will keep the SCC and COA Board informed. This site would add to other offsite spaces currently in use such as the Boys and Girls Club and the Public Library. Jack MacKeen clarified this is a COA initiative, with no action indicated for the SCC.
- **UMASS Boston “Aging in Maynard Study”:** Amy Loveless reported on Caitlin Coyle’s presentation to the Select Board on Tuesday evening. There will be revised versions of both the presentation and the final report due to clerical issues needing to be addressed. The report acknowledged that

the current issues with space and accessibility are impacting what programs can be offered. A significant observation was that 22% of surveyed participants were having trouble paying for a significant routine expenditure, such as home maintenance, taxes, car payments, and even food; whereas, in other MA communities, this proportion was normally closer to 10%. Also, there was shown to be a significant income disparity between “senior” households and “younger” households, with a greater gap than what has been shown to exist in other MA communities.

There will be an additional presentation on TU October 22, in-person at the Public Library. Jack noted this presentation is scheduled for two hours, vs the abbreviated time period made available during the Select Board meeting which had many other scheduled agenda items. Jack was struck by the high percentage of respondents who are currently caregivers, and noticed the Select Board was noticeably impacted by the high percentage of respondents who are having trouble paying for routine expenditures. Additional discussion included unmet needs for medical transportation, and the impact of increasing taxes on fixed-income seniors.

Amy also referred to an article forwarded by Jack MacKeen from Braintree Elder Affairs, which emphasized their facility serves “two generations of older adults”, those 60-75 and those 75 and older, because these age groups “often have different hobbies and different needs.”

Dan Shields, commenting on a reference to “quorum notice” by Amy in her remarks, indicated he will be asking the Town for specific guidance on when such a notice is required to ensure compliance with MA Open Meeting Law. Amy Loveless’ reference regarded a majority of the COA Board attending the upcoming “Aging in Maynard Study” presentation at the Library; Dan’s reference was regarding the possibility of a majority of SCC members attending the 10/15/24 Select Board meeting. Re Dan’s reference, the guidance received from Jim Alexander (Clerk’s Office) was that no quorum notice would be required simply due to a majority of SCC members being present. However, the SCC members would not be allowed to speak except as individuals, not as a “public body” as defined in MA law.

4. New Business

Deb Roussell noted the FAQ Working Group will be meeting Monday, October 21 to explore how the FAQ Page could be used to address emerging issues and questions raised in social media, as well as to update questions and responses in response to developments in recent months.

Jack MacKeen raised the issue from the SCC’s prior meeting re the COA requesting budget annual increases that would cover lease payments for a new interim facility. Amy Loveless confirmed the COA Board had reviewed the information re the potential 141 Parker site, and that Amy will be meeting with Greg Johnson next week to discuss the FY26 budget, including not only incremental financing for future lease payments but also staffing increases that would be required from having more space available for additional programs.

5. Public Comments: none.

6. Next Meeting Date / Time / Venue

Thursday, November 7, 2024 7pm. **Update:** This will be a **Hybrid** meeting, although having been initially discussed in-meeting as “fully remote”.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jack MacKeen and seconded by Paul Guthrie to adjourn. **Motion carried 7-0.**
Meeting adjourned 7:57pm.

Approval date: 11/07/2024



Dan Shields, SCC Clerk

Documents

- **MSCC 2024-10-17 Agenda v3.docx**
- **MSCC 2024-10-03 Minutes v1.docx**