

Minutes - COA/LCC Meeting

April 11, 2022 at 10:30AM

Lancaster Community Center - in person and via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87647643485>

Meeting ID: 876 4764 3485

Attendees:

Alix Turner, Director

Members:

	Present	Absent
Judie Maclean	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nicole Kanis – Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deborah Ducharme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda Cutler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frank Macgrory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Mazzola	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Others present:

Sheila Casey, Friends of Lancaster Seniors

David Bartlett, CSL

Jeff Paster, BOH

David James, COA Admin

Mary Ann Cleary

Meeting was called to order at 10:34AM by Nicole Kanis

Approval of Minutes

- No minutes from March 14th meeting, as the recording was inadvertently turned off. They will be reconstructed from memory.

Friends Updates:

- Balance of \$40,614 in checking account
- Pancakes: \$382 income, and \$176 expenses
- \$5200 in donations (one large \$5000 donation)
- Lunch group (2 times): \$186
- File tax return: \$478

Director's updates:

- Covid-19 update
 - Slight rise in cases
 - Lancaster vax rate is now 60%
 - Booster available for anyone ≥ 12 or over 50 and 4 months since last shot
 - Research is ongoing for new and better vaccine!
 - BA2 is dominant variant
 - Test kits are available free of charge; reminded people that close contacts should be notified if test positive. Not required to contact the BOH
 - Having had COVID is NOT protection from the virus
- Garden updates
 - Going very well; 15 beds assigned
 - Compost has arrived!
 - Meeting each Thursday at 10am until warmer weather
 - Chatted about need to share information, as some people cannot make weekly meetings
 - Suggested that when any bed needs to be repaired/replaced that it be handicapped style/accessible
- LCC/SC vacation coverage/hours
 - Continues to be an issue!
 - We do not have sufficient staff/backup for any one of the three of us to take any kind of extended vacation
- PR/Marketing
 - EDDM is still a goal
 - Looking for possibly June and/or the Fall
- Budget Status
 - Submitted "level services" budget (as requested)
 - Some other departments requested increases
 - HR is looking into pay rates and classifications in comparison to neighboring towns

- Senior Tax Work-off Program
 - New and improved (and simplified) form has made applying MUCH easier
 - Number of applicants is increasing, but could be better

- Building Updates. Cleaning etc.
 - WE HAVE HEAT!
 - The fan units in the gym have been repaired
 - Boiler was replaced

- Food service updates- MOC etc. (Alix)
 - Currently sending our approx. 22 meals every day
 - 12-14 are official MOC deliveries
 - 8-10 are “congregate” (normally would come to the Senior Center IF we were serving lunch)

- Programming
 - Exercise classes and games (Bridge, BINGO, Mah Jong) continuing
 - Strength classes and Yoga classes still hybrid (ZOOM and in person)

- Grants (Alix) – no update (no time to work on them)

- Administrative and Personnel
 - David Bartlett has been paid as an independent contractor
 - This is wrong, and he will be hired in as a full time employee

- Spring planning
 - Earth Day celebration planned for April 22
 - Tree to be planted and flowers as memorials
 - BBQ on the town green sponsored by the Friends
 - May is “Senior Appreciation” month
 - Nashoba Neighbors is regrouping and restarting

- CSL update
 - Working with several difficult cases
- Next meeting date – May 16, 10:30AM

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40AM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'J'.

David R. James, COA Admin Asst.



Town of Lancaster

*701 Main Street, Suite 1
Lancaster, MA 01523*

PUBLIC MEETING REMOTE PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in place, the various Boards and Committees representing the Town of Lancaster will conduct their public meetings and hearings via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted.

In Advance of Meetings:

- All non-emergency items are still required to be properly posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. This is still done by contacting the Town Clerk's office.
- All members should receive the same documents for the meeting electronically.
- Supporting documents should be posted on the Town's website and be available for members of the public.

Essential Components for Remote Meetings:

- Access to participate for a quorum of committee members at the time of the meeting.
- Ability to take minutes which accurately reflect the meeting and the votes taken.
- Ability to record meeting for playback (this is not required under the order, but is preferred)
- Ability to allow for real-time public participation/comments (this is not required under the order, but is preferred)
- Meeting with public hearings must provide access for third party participation to all members of the committee.

Identifying the Proper Medium to Conduct Meetings:

While we are suspending use of the Nashaway Meeting Room and Conference Room in the Prescott Building, and the ability to live stream through Sterling-Lancaster Cable, there are alternatives for Boards and Committees to consider. Below are a few options available to Committees. There may be alternatives that members are more comfortable using which will be permitted so long as the essential components for all meetings are met through use of that medium.

- *Town of Lancaster ZOOM account with Webinar Functions* – this account was purchased by the Town Administrator's office for hosting meeting that requires public participation/third party access for participation. This method is currently the preferred method and should be used by Boards and Committees that have hearing and require third party participation through public comments of from applicants seeking permits. (includes but is not limited to: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission)

- At this time, the town only has one executive ZOOM account. If you wish to use the ZOOM account, you may need to schedule meetings at different times/days than your board typically meets to ensure no conflict with other meetings.

- *Standard/Free Zoom Accounts* – Anyone can access a free Zoom account with up to 100 participants for a maximum 40-minute meeting. This function will allow Board and Committees to record their meetings for future playback and the ability to share screens. Please note there are several systems available that offer similar abilities and any of them can be used for this purpose. (ex. Google Meet, Skype for Business, Microsoft Teams, etc.)
- *Local Cable Access* – Currently, the Town does not allow for local cable access broadcast through the Nashaway Meeting Room. However, to the extent possible, local cable will be used if it is accessible and safe for staff, committee members, and members of the public.

Use of ZOOM for Remote Access to Public Meetings

Zoom Video Communications, Inc. (ZOOM) can be used for remote conferencing services to allow for remote access for public meetings. Access numbers and web addresses will be provided as part of each meeting's agenda posted to the town calendar on the homepage of Lancaster's website, www.ci.lancaster.ma.us.

Meetings can be accessed from your personal computer, cellphone and/or telephone. It is anticipated that most Board and Committee meetings will continue to be broadcast by Sterling-Lancaster Cable through ZOOM's "Record" feature.

Protocols for Remote Public Meetings Using the Webinar Feature

- All participants entering the meeting via a personal computer ("computer participants") are required to rename themselves with their official first and last name.
- Computer participants are encouraged to click on the "Participants" feature in ZOOM to view all participants and to view/use the "Q&A" function to pose questions on the bottom on the screen.
- Computer participants may "Pin" to a particular video screen.
 - It is recommended to "Pin" to the staff member associated with the committee or in the case there is no staff member, to the Chairperson. This can be done by right clicking over the three (3) dots symbol in the top right corner of the staff/chair's video screen.
- The Chair or present support staff should adhere to the script provided as an attachment to this document for the purpose of properly recognizing members and providing information to the public. (This script is a draft/guide and should be tailored to your needs)
- The Chairperson will identify himself or herself.
- The Chairperson will conduct the roll call of the Board
- The Chairperson will call the meeting to order
- All participants (excluding the Board members) will be muted throughout the meeting and must use the Q&A function.
- All participants are required to include their name and address when using the chat feature to pose a question to through the Chairperson.
- All documents displayed throughout the meeting will be controlled by the present staff member or Chairperson.
 - Only computer participants will be able to view documents.
- If and when the Chairperson allows for public comments/questions, it will be conducted the following sequence:
 1. The Chairperson will read public comments/questions received in advance of the meeting followed by real-time Board and/or applicant response.

2. The Chairperson will read real-time comments/questions typed by computer participants in the “Q&A” feature followed by real-time Board and/or applicant responses.

- Computer participants must click on “Q&A” to enter their comment/question.
- The staff or Chairperson will address the question live to the Board. It will be discussed then marked “answered” by the staff or the Chairperson.

3. The Chairperson will ask if any other participants accessing the meeting comments/questions.

- Board members needing to be recused at any point of during the course of a meeting will be placed in a virtual “Waiting Room” by the staff person of Chairperson.

Directions to access meeting will be posted on agendas for the public when available.