

Council on Aging (COA) Advisory Board

Minutes from Meeting Monday October 20, 2025 at 9:00AM

At Lowell Senior Center

I. Roll Call/Sign: In attendance: Frank Baskin, Gilda James, Judy Huber, Recorder Beverly Gonsalves, Molyka Tieng, Andy Hostetler. and Erin Gendron. Excused Richard Demers, Acting for Richard Demers is Maxine Farkas. Guest is Kimberly Gagnon Director.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

III. Approval of the Monday September minutes first by Molyka Tieng second by Frank Baskin and they were approved unanimously.

IV. Director's Report: Kim gave us an update on the status of Walgreens: There is still a lease until the end of 2025. We have Marion who is our weekend and during the week along with Doug. We will have a new weekend custodian starting October 21, 2025. Doug is full time, the other two will be part time. Doug waxed the Dining Room over the weekend. Kim is working on the heat in the building and the thermostat are in good working order.

V. Chairperson's Report: Maxine is acting Chairman for Richard. She welcomed Erin Gendron who has filled the vacancy on the Board. Erin said that she used to help with the Brown Bag and has worked for the Board of Health. The Board members welcomed and introduced themselves to Erin.

VI Committee & Liaison Reports

a. **Grant updates.** Maxine said that we have not received any Grant money this current period, however there is enough money for the Art Program for another year. There are post cards going out for the Art Program.

b. **Outreach Committee:** Maxine said that there are 26,000 seniors over the age of sixty in Lowell. Maxine and the Board wants to get the word out to inform more seniors what is available to them at the Senior Center. Currently there is a survey in Lowell and the Senior Center held a Health Fair on Tuesday October 21, from 9am to 10:30am.

c. **Healthy Aging Committee:** Frank does regularly attend monthly meetings at other local agencies. Frank said that we need to contact our Representatives for more money for AGE SPAN and Aurora could do a paragraph in the Heritage to inform seniors.

VII Items for Discussion

a. **Old Business**

The focus is on trying to obtain the Walgreens space for the Senior Center. Frank has been getting signatures too. Nick Sarris still owns the Walgreens side which is called a condo.

Concentrate on that side and not other buildings. At the City Council meeting that Maxine attended the Walgreens space was very well supported by the council except for one of the councilors.

i. State Budget: Ask for money, contact the Legislature, ask for \$5,000.00 more.

ii. Mass Health, no update

iii. By Laws to be discussed, need to have August meeting.

iv. Senior Center Working Group: Richard and Maxine are currently working on this project to promote the Senior Center. Maxine is looking for people who have good stories to tell about the Senior Center. Kim said that this could be placed on Facebook, "What has the Senior Center done for you." Aurora could post it and have a little blurbs, also identify older adults who are here. For example Debbie Roy has been here for thirty years.

Andy and Frank said that on the Happy to Chat Bench the language could be in Spanish and Khmer.

v. On the verbal abuse of the elderly, Kim if a person is using abusive language to say to them "do not speak to me like that."

b. New Business

I. Discussion on GLHA

VIII Other

IX Adjournment: First by Molyka, second by Judy, all others were in agreement.

Next Meeting Monday November 10, 2025 @ 9:00 am