

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Ludlow Senior Center
228 State Street
Wednesday, July 15, 2026

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Present: J. Zepke, B. Radowski, D. Peacey K. Martin, R. Forti, B. Mishol, H. Grabowski, F. Barroso, J. DaCruz, K. Ribeiro, D. Potter.

Excused: K. Martin

Absent:

Guest: K. Green

I. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson D. Peacey.

II. Secretary's Report

- a. The minutes of the June 24th, 2026 meeting were reviewed and approved. M/S: B. Mishol/F.Barroso. All in favor.

III. Treasurer's Report

- a. The financial report was not available for the meeting; the end-of-year status will be discussed at the August Meeting.

IV. Director's Report

- a. New Programs: J. Zepke reported that there will be several educational programs that will be provided over the summer. There was discussion regarding the recent newspaper reports of "scams" perpetrated against seniors in local communities. A representative from the Hampden County D A's office will present lunch and learn in August discussing the EASE program. There will be another presentation regarding Medicare fraud. J. Zepke discussed the different mechanisms they utilize to identify ideas for new programs and/or presentations. They accept suggestions from seniors; review other community senior center newsletters for ideas. It was also reported that a new exercise program was initiated in July on Monday afternoons taught by a YMCA instructor following the discontinuation of the afternoon Zumba class.
- b. Generator/Building Committee Update: The Building Committee members voted to dissolve the Building Committee after the issue of the generator was resolved and all bills were paid.
- c. Carport Update: J; Zepke updated members related to status of carport; will be funded partially by the Friends of the Senior Center and partially by Formula Grant funds.
- d. MCOA Meeting: J. Zepke reported that the Massachusetts COA meeting will take place in Southbridge, Ma. this year October 21st-23, 2026. Registration will open next week. COA board members can attend if they are interested. Zepke will forward information out to members; there is funds available for registration if any members are interested.

V. Chairman's Report

- a. Board Vacancy: To date, Phillip Tierney, a former Board member, has submitted a letter of interest which was reviewed at the last meeting. A motion was made to approve accepting Mr. Tierney as a board member as long as no additional candidates have come forward asking to be considered as well. M/S: R. Mishol /Barroso. All in favor. D. Peacey will contact the Town to determine whether any additional memos of interest have been received that should be considered.
- b. Development of Directors Report Template: J. Zepke has asked COA members to assist in developing a recurring template for the Directors Report with information that the Board would like to have reported monthly. D. Peacey stated that some issues she finds important include program issues (i.e. new programs), staffing issues, budget status, Formula Grant status, and of course any problems that have been identified. K.Green stated that knowing about the new programs that are upcoming is helpful as COA members can encourage participation; she also felt staff and seniors' issues/problems are also important for the board to be aware of. T. Riberio also noted that if there is any new industry news that may be of interest and/or relevance to the COA , that should be included. R. Mishol noted that topics raised in regular meetings with the Town Administrator may be of interest to the COA as well.

The main topics that members would like to be included in the agenda (of the Directors Report) include the following: Budget, Grant status, Discussion of any Problems (Staff and/or Participants or Center), New Programs, Staffing Vacancies, Industry News, and any other topics that the Director feels should be brought to the attention of the COA.

VI: Other Business:

VIII: Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. M/S: B. Mishol/F. Barroso. All in favor.

The next Board Meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Peacey, Acting Secretary, COA