

**Council on Aging Board Meeting
Milano Center
February 19, 2026**

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Dave Kourtz, Vice-Chair Kristin Thorp, Ellen Cobau, Philip Hermann, Mike Tarmey, Nancy Messina (Virtual), and Maura Sullivan (Virtual)

Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: Erica Drummond, COA Executive Director

Meeting called to order at 8:02 am by Chair Dave Kourtz
Minutes of Board Meeting (in packet) February 19,2026 approved

Council on Aging

- **Age-Friendly/Dementia-Friendly Grant**
 - Community training: Rachael Cordella, LCSW has scheduled two Age-Friendly Dementia-Friendly trainings: April 7 at 6pm & April 8 at 2pm
 - Memory Café: First meeting is Friday, February 27. After that, meetings will be 3rd Wednesday at 1:30. Erica reached out to MVES, newspapers, Mayor's office, and local COAs regarding this offering.

- **Milano Center Events**
 - Milano Winter Olympics: For the Opening Ceremony, a video of "torch" passed among Milano "athletes" on the streets of Melrose was a hit!!
 - Milano Center Open House: Scheduled for Wednesday March 25; 2-4pm

- **Housekeeping**
 - Social Media Assistant position: This position has been filled by a Melrose resident who was hired through the Property Tax Write Off program. He will assist Erica on Fridays by prepping photos/video/announcements for posting.
 - DPW Requests: The Milano center has incomplete bathroom renovations and a frozen pipe situation. Erica will escalation these concerns to DPW leadership.
 - New Police Station construction: As of March 1st, there will be no Milano Center parking in the old Beebe School lot. This will leave the Milano Center with only 25 parking spaces. Erica is working on mitigating this loss by identifying alternative parking (especially for employees); requesting that Milano members carpool or consider taking the free COA mini bus; staggering programming times.

Friends of Milano Center

Hamilton Hall Lecture Series on Global Affairs is underway. Two of the of the eight recorded presentations have been shown.

Old Business

- **UMass Boston Needs Assessment**
- Erica will reconcile outstanding action items.

Next Meeting

Multiple members are unable to attend a meeting in March. The next meeting is Thursday April 16, 2026 8am; Milano Center (2nd Floor Conference Room)

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ellen Cobau, Clerk

Milano Center Activities

- **Memory Café**

First meeting scheduled for Friday 2/27. Will have a coffee house theme with music and snacks. Erica will reach out to Stoneham and Wakefield to see if any of their members are interested in attending and/or to coordinate activities.

- **Men's Breakfast Group**

Second meeting of Men's Breakfast Group was well received with 15-17 attendees.

- **Elvis' 90th Birthday Celebration and Casino Night**

Held on January 7. Event had over 80 attendees

Friends of the Milano Center

- Hamilton Hall Lecture Series.

For the third straight year, the Friends of the Milano center are sponsoring the recorded presentations of The Hamilton Hall Lecture Series. This series consist of eight lectures on global affairs. The recordings will be played on eight consecutive Saturdays at 11am, beginning on February 7 and ending on March 28. Tickets for the entire series will cost \$80 or attendees can select 4 lectures for \$50.

Erica reports slow start to ticket sales. First Lecture is Saturday February 7th

- Breakfast with COA Board of Directors.

The Friends Board of Directors and The COA Board of Directors will meet for breakfast following this (TH Jan 15th) COA Board Meeting

COA Board of Directors

- Kristin Thorp accepted the position of Vice President. All executive positions are now filled.
- The COA Board of Directors has recommended Mike Tarmey for an open COA board position. In February, he is scheduled to go before Melrose City Council for approval.
- Ellen Cobau is up for re-appointment in February.

Next meeting Thursday February 19, 2026; Milano Center (2nd Floor Conference Room).

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ellen Cobau, Clerk