

RECEIVED

By City Clerks Office at 3:27 pm, Aug 14, 2025

**Council on Aging Board Meeting
Milano Center
November 21, 2024**

Board Members in Attendance: David Kourtz (Chair), Margaret Ivins (Vice-chair), Ellen Cobau, Nancy Messina, Maura Sullivan, Kristin Thorp.

Members Absent: Philip Hermann

Other Attendees: Erica Brown, COA Executive Director

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am by Chair David Kourtz

Minutes of Board Meeting October 17, 2024 (in meeting packet) approved

Milano Center

Collaborative Events/Trips

- LGBTQ Disco Dance 45 attendees from Melrose/ Wakefield/Stoneham/Medford
- December 12: Holiday Pops at Symphony Hall

Other COA Activities/Events

- October 29: Resource Fair - 76 attendees with 18 departments/organizations represented
- December 10: Holiday Party Memorial Hall 120 signed up (last year 110); cost \$15.
- December 31: New Years Eve Day aboard "The Odyssey" 27 tickets sold at \$165 apiece
- Hamilton Hall Lecture Series: Speakers will be announced soon; may need to consider offering the series on a weekday evening (7PM); consider offering transportation

Council on Aging

Grant Updates

- Age-Friendly/Dementia-Friendly Grant: Erica is working with Health Department to identify action items and timelines
- \$50,000 grant earmarked to purchase new COA van. Erica has located a pre-owned 14 passenger van located in a dealership in Hudson, NH; has the "kneeling feature" and ramp

MCOA Conference in Falmouth (10/23- 10/25) Erica attended workshops on AI; Digital Literacy; info re running a "Pizza and Proxies" (info session on health care proxy); Brookline's COA website how-to video on using rideshare services.

Safety Upgrades/Improvements: At Milano Center, the City of Melrose installed sidewalks with curbs-cuts near patio entrance and improved signage in circular drive.

Survey Action Items Progress

Considering quarterly collaborative event with alternating host

Biannual "Welcome to Milano" January and June; recruit Friendly Ambassadors; give tours; hold Q&A sessions; advertise Melrose Community FaceBook Page, Newspaper

Board of Directors

Kristin Thorp's three-year term will end on July 2025; Applicants need to apply or re-apply two months ahead of a vacancy. Further discussion of board positions will occur in February 2025.

Next meeting Thursday, December 19, 2024 @8am Milano Center (2nd Floor Conference Room)

Meeting adjourned at 9:01

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ellen Cobau, Clerk