

## BOARD MEMBERS

Noreen Shea, Chair \*  
Asuncion Austriaco  
Chizoma Nosike  
Christian Roberts  
Facely Henriquez \*  
Lovo Koliego \*  
Matthew Torrey  
Olanike Ojelabi  
Pavel Terpelets  
Roxana Gomez Vargas  
Sarah Faucher  
Stephen Corridori \*  
Tamara Cullen \*  
Thuha Le

\*Senior Center Committee Members

## CONTACT

- Address: WSC, 128 Providence St.
- Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Phone: 508-799-1232
- Email:  
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- Website:  
[www.worcesterma.gov/senior-center](http://www.worcesterma.gov/senior-center)

The Commission on Elder Affairs is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to all. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in the meeting, please reach out to the staff contact listed. While boards and commissions do their best to accommodate you, certain accommodations may not be available if requested within short notice of the scheduled meeting. Requests for American Sign Language interpretation must be made 10 business days or more in advance of the meeting.

Hay disponibles servicios de interpretación y otras adaptaciones con solicitud previa.

توفر الترجمة الفورية وغيرها من وسائل التيسير عند الطلب المسبق

अनुवाद र अग्य आवसह अ-म अनरोधपचत उ उपलब्ध हुन्छ।

Interpretação e outras adaptações estão disponíveis mediante solicitação prévia.

Për këthimi dhe akomodime të tjera janë në dispozicion me kërkesë paraprake.

Kasa nkyereasee ene akwanya aforo da ho ma won a won be bisa ato ho.

Phiên dịch và các hỗ trợ khác có sẵn theo yêu cầu trước.

## DIVISION STAFF

Amy Vogel Waters, Director  
Patricia Hainsworth, Operations



The City of  
Worcester

## COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, June 15, 2026, 4:00 p.m. in-person at the  
Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence St.**

For more information concerning this meeting, please contact the Elder Affairs Division/Worcester Senior Center by email at [elderaffairs@worcesterma.gov](mailto:elderaffairs@worcesterma.gov) or phone at 508-799-1232. Please send **written comments** 2 business days or more in advance of the meeting. If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in the meeting, please reach out to the staff contact listed. While boards and commissions do their best to accommodate you, certain accommodation may not be available if requested within short notice of the scheduled meeting. Requests for American Sign Language interpretation must be made 10 business days or more in advance of the meeting.

Para más información sobre esta reunión, comuníquese con el Elder Affairs División/Worcester Senior Center por correo electrónico al correo [elderaffairs@worcesterma.gov](mailto:elderaffairs@worcesterma.gov) o por teléfono 508-799-1232]. Envíe **sus comentarios por escrito** 2 días hábiles o más antes de la reunión. Si necesita adaptaciones razonables para participar en la reunión, comuníquese con el contacto del personal indicado en la lista. Aunque las juntas y comisiones hacen todo lo posible para atenderle, algunas adaptaciones podrían no estar disponibles si se solicitan con poca anticipación a la reunión programada. Las solicitudes de interpretación de lenguaje de señas estadounidense deben hacerse 10 días hábiles o más antes de la reunión.

### Call to Order – 4 p.m.

**1) Attendance/Approval of Commission meeting minutes of March 23<sup>rd</sup> & April 27<sup>th</sup>; Approval of Senior Center Committee Reports of April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>; Confirm next meeting for September 28, 2026 at 4 pm in person.**

### **2) Happy Factor video review & discussion.**

### **3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT-GOALS/OUTCOMES**

### **4) OPERATIONS & SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **5) SENIOR SERVICES, EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

### **6) Comments/Questions (up to 2 min. each)**

### **Adjourn**



# The City of Worcester

## **Commission on Elder Affairs**

Meeting Minutes-March 23, 2026

Virtual on Teams

**Attendance:** Noreen Shea-Chair, Shonee Austriaco, Christian Roberts, Facely Henriquez, Matt Torrey, Olanike Ojelabi, Sarah Faucher, Steve Corridori, Tamara Cullen, Thuha Le, Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Nathan Lewis, Yahaira Graxierena, Jason Shreiber, R. Sylvan-student from Hubbardston.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order on Teams at 4:05 by Noreen. The minutes of the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting as well as the March 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Center Committee Report were approved (m/s/a). It was noted that the next meeting will be April 27, 2026 at 4 pm in-person at the Worcester Senior Center.

**Guest speakers:** The Vernon Connect project was presented by Central MA Planning Commission staff Nathan Lewis and Yahaira Graxierena as well as consultant from Stantec, Jason Shreiber. Key points included: The Vernon St. bridge will need to be replaced in about 5 years and this is an effort to get feedback to avoid what happened when the building of route 290 eliminated some neighborhoods; growing use of cars has had a big impact and efforts will be made to make the neighborhood more walkable, so there will be reasons for people to get out of their cars; As the senior center is in the neighborhood, it is important that we complete the survey and attend meetings. Commission members made suggestions about contacting others with a vested interest to get involved. <https://vernon-connected-cmrpc.hub.arcgis.com/> This URL provides further information.

**Director's Report:** Amy's review of her report included: State funding for FY'27 is being considered in the House and Senate, with legislators benefiting from information from Commission members on the needs; we've met 79% of our goal for different programs and services so far; evaluations have been requested from programs for review by the Senior Center Committee; The annual participant survey is being conducted March 19<sup>th</sup>-April 10<sup>th</sup>.; New HHS Commissioner, Seema Dixit, will speak at the June Commission meeting; There are 2,649 subscribers to the Scoop newsletter in its new format; To date, there were 6 residents in the Senior Seasonal Support Shelter established by Central MA Housing Alliance.

**Operations & Special Projects:** Working on ordering security cameras, light blocking shades for the lunchroom and updated furniture for the lobby; The St. Patrick's Day event and Harpist concert were awesome; The Sheriff will be demonstrating a drone program; new massage therapist service started; April programs address Alzheimer's Disease, poetry and hydroponic gardening to name a few.

**Senior Services, Education & Outreach:** Linda provided more information about the Alzheimer's program which was co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Partnership. She will be facilitating the UMASS Chan Medical

school students Fall Risk and Prevention study group in April. There are changes in the eligibility criteria for the Medicare Savings Program.

**Adjournment:** Noreen adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m. (m/s/a)

### **Commission on Elder Affairs**

Meeting Minutes-April 27, 2026

Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street

**Attendance:** Noreen Shea-Chair, Shonee Austriaco, Olanike Ojelabi, Pavel Terpelets, Sarah Faucher, Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Jack Bonina, Maureen Schwabb.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm by Noreen. The March and April minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum. It was noted that the next meeting will be at the senior center on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

**Guest speaker:** Jack Bonina, a licensed therapist, reported on the men's support groups he has been running at the senior center weekly. One is currently paid for via participant's health insurance and the other is funded via a grant from MCOA. He said that the ages range from 65 to 93 years old with the average age of 75, 12 of the 18 participants are married, 1 is widowed and 3 have partners. All are retired from full-time career jobs. 17 are Caucasian and 1 is a Nigerian immigrant. Reasons for joining the group include feeling they lack purpose since retiring, feeling isolated and depressed with too much time on their hands. Jack provided some testimonials of members who find it the highlight of their week, bonding, helping others, learning and staying active. It is "a refreshing oasis in the complex journey of life." Jack answered Commission members questions including how health insurance works for this service.

**Director's Report:** Amy highlighted the following: 2 more staff became certified dementia care practitioners for a total of 3; The House has approved \$16/elder formula for FY'27 with the Senate currently considering it; met 84% of annual goal for new programs; sorry most commission members couldn't attend the volunteer recognition event; program evaluations informed senior center committee's preliminary recommendations for fy'27 allocations; 388 responses to annual participant survey with a 98% positive rating; marketing continues including 2,753 online subscribers to new formatted scoop; supported MassBike's proposal.

**Operations & Special Projects:** Patty highlighted the following: more security cameras installed as well as a new charging station; Many well-attended programs; Upcoming programs include Robert Frost poetry, Greenhill Golf collaboration with Memory Café, Acrylic painting, junk journaling series, pharmacy outreach, Vernon Connected, author talks, fraud squad, acting class play and the summer concert series.

**Senior Services, Education & Outreach:** Linda highlighted the following: senior services very busy-see chart in report for breakdown; MCOA provided training to prevent social isolation; will conduct outreach at 4 out-to-lunch events on the common; legal and Shine counselor appointments all booked up.

A member of the public, Maureen Schwabb, reported on the development of an adult day resource center to open on Gold Street.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

**COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS**  
**Senior Center Committee**  
Meeting Minutes/Report  
April 14, 2026 Virtual on Teams

**Attendance:** Noreen Shea-Chair; Tamara Cullen; Steve Corridori; Amy Waters; & Patty Hainsworth.

1. **Call to Order:** Noreen called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm on Teams. The minutes of the March 10th meeting were approved. (m/s/a) Members were reminded that the next meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup> which is expected to take the place of the May meeting.
2. **Finances:** Amy reviewed and the members discussed the following: Contracted programs self-evaluations; projected funding for FY'27 and plan for preliminary allocations; and a motion was made to recommend FY'27 allocations for St. Paul's Elder Outreach, CMHA Elder Home Maintenance, and Ascentria New American Elder Outreach with a 2% increase from FY26 contingent upon funding availability and required authorizations; a friendly amendment was made that requires the allocation for Ascentria to be decreased if they do not fully expend their FY'26 contract; The motion as amended was approved (m/s/a). In addition, the committee was updated on rental agreements and recommended two options which Amy will offer to QCC regarding their rental fees for FY'27 and FY'28 (m/s/a).
3. **Operations:** Patty informed the members on the following: Working with DPF on ordering blinds for the lunchroom and furniture; now have new charging stations; lots of trash collected in rain gardens; Volunteer recognition all set for tomorrow; Alzheimer's Program and Donuts & Decisions were recent well-attended programs; Robert Frost poetry event coming up; a variety of medical student clerkships have been here to learn; massage therapy is going well; front desk coverage remains a major team effort.
4. **Adjournment:** Noreen adjourned the meeting at 12:46 pm. (m/s/a)

**COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS**  
**Senior Center Committee**  
Meeting Minutes/Report  
April 28, 2026 Virtual on Teams

**Attendance:** Noreen Shea-Chair; Tamara Cullen; Lovo Koleigo; Amy Waters; & Patty Hainsworth.

5. **Call to Order:** Noreen called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm on Teams. The minutes of the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. (m/s/a) Members were reminded that the next meeting is June 9, 2026, noon, on Teams.
6. **Finances:** Amy reviewed and the members discussed the following: No changes currently anticipated for FY'27 projected funding; reviewed line items including approximately \$45,000 to be available for contingencies after allowing a 2% increase for most, and an additional recommended allocation for Jack's Group for men age 65+; approximately \$56,000 in FY'26 funding was expended on 1 time costs including lobby furniture, multi-purpose chairs, fitness equipment, security cameras and fitness instructors. The members approved a recommendation to allocate a 2% increase for programs and services with contractual exceptions (transportation, fitness center), and a new \$8,000 allocation for "Jack's Group," contingent on funding availability and authorizations (m/s/a). There was no new information to report on space licenses or development.
7. **Operations:** Patty informed the members that April programming is very busy and that there are many large programs scheduled already through December. She noted that the volunteer recognition event went well and May programs include pharmacy, authors, fraud squad, acting club play, and Greendale retiree's chorus.
8. **Adjournment:** Noreen adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm. (m/s/a)