

**Hull Select Board  
Final Minutes  
October 26, 2022**

The meeting of the Hull Select Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at Hull High School, 180 Main Street, Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: Jennifer Constable, Chair; Donna Pursel, Vice-Chair; Greg Grey, Member. Members absent: Irwin Nesoff, Clerk; Domenico Sestito, Member. Also present was Town Manager Philip Lemnios.

Before calling the meeting to order Constable led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**No Place for Hate Committee**

Valerie Carlson, Vice-Chair of the Hull No Place for Hate Committee (HNPFH) called their meeting to order. She said that the mission of HNPFH is to build understanding within the community and to promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) among all residents in order to promote a just and inclusive community for all. She noted that in 2022 they sponsored a number of activities including a viewing of “Mission Joy”, a film featuring the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu, a lawn sign outreach, book donations to the Hull Public Library, and a panel discussion on diversity at the Hull Lifesaving Museum. They also held the recent Stand in the Sand event, which was very successful. She said they have good relations with other local groups and noted that two of their members recently participated in a DEI training event. Carlson said they have researched DEI programs in other communities and are hoping to plan community-wide conversations on DEI in order to develop a Hull DEI policy.

Deborah Bayer said that in addition to hosting community-wide discussions in 2023, they are planning a Community Service Day for Martin Luther King Day, and two “Feasts of Conversations” to discuss what they wish for their community. They hope to recruit new members and to continue their outreach to Town schools, departments, and organizations. They will also continue their weekly messages in the Hull Times

Pam Wolfe said that formulating a DEI policy for the Town is necessary in order to help guide the operations of the Town and set a standard for the rest of Hull. She said that the development of such a policy can only come after extensive community-wide discussions but they will need the commitment and assistance of the Select Board, Town Manager, and various Town departments in order to sponsor these. She also said they have drafted a DEI Pledge that they would like the Board to review and adopt and they would like there to be a liaison from the Board on their Committee.

Constable said that since not all Select Board members are present at this meeting, they will put adoption of the Pledge on the agenda for the next meeting. Both Constable and Lemnios noted that DEI is a fairly new concept and many communities are struggling with the best ways to implement DEI policies. Constable said that MAPC has put out a guidebook on this and Wolfe said they are hoping to secure a technical assistance grant from MAPC to help train them in conducting community-wide discussions. Based on these discussions they plan to construct a town-wide survey of the issues that people would like to see addressed in any DEI policy. Lemnios urged the Committee to work on a draft of their MAPC grant application, which is due in January, and to submit it to the Board in early December for their review and assistance.

The Committee then voted to adjourn their meeting.

**Council on Aging re: Continued discussion of Needs Assessment Study and next steps**

Robert Goldstein, Co-Chair of the Council on Aging Board, opened the Board’s meeting. Goldstein said that in response to the Needs Assessment the COA is seeking an Age-Friendly designation from AARP. He said that such a designation will show Hull’s commitment to being a livable community for people of all ages and will provide the support and resources to help accomplish this. Goldstein said that an Age-Friendly designation involves a

commitment to continuous improvement in eight different areas: Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Communication and Information, Civic Participation and Employment, Respect and Social Inclusion, Health Services and Community Supports, and Social Participation. He noted that there is no membership fee involved in this designation.

Goldstein said there is an online application that requires a signed letter from the Town's highest elected official (Constable) stating that the Town is committed to implementing a continuous improvement process. He said the COA is willing to draft this letter and present it to the Board for their consideration and they are hoping for the Board's commitment to this effort. Constable said she feels this is an important issue and one the Town should be pursuing. Goldstein said that in their draft letter the COA would indicate what they feel are the Town's strengths and where the initial focus of their efforts should be. He said he would have this letter to the Board before their meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Constable noted that she feels housing is an important issue for seniors and would like to add a representative from the COA to the Affordable Housing Committee.

<b>Motion</b>	Grey	To add a representative from the Hull Council on Aging to the Affordable Housing Committee
<b>Second</b>	Pursel	
<b>Vote</b>	Unanimous	

Goldstein then raised the issue of property taxes for seniors as many are finding it financially difficult to remain in their homes. He said there are currently two programs available to seniors in Hull. The first is a \$1,000 tax exemption for seniors over the age of 65 who meet certain criteria and the second is a tax credit up to a maximum of \$1700 for seniors who complete up to 125 hours of service. Goldstein said there are challenges with both of these programs but feels they have value and should be more actively promoted and publicized. He said Hull is not currently at parity with other local communities and the COA recommends increasing the amount of the personal exemption as well as possibly reducing the number of hours required for the tax credit. Lemnios said an increase in the tax exemption might need to go before Town Meeting. He said the Town Assessor should examine this issue to see what impact it might have on the Town's financial situation.

Lisa Thornton, Director of the Senior Center, gave an update on happenings at the Center. She said the Needs Assessment has been a great guide in helping them with current activities and in planning for projected growth. She said that in 2022 they hired an LICSW for the Center as well as an Activities/Volunteer Coordinator and have grown their volunteer program. They are hoping that in November they will be launching the FISH drive program which helps seniors with transportation needs. They have also been more actively publicizing Center offerings and have worked hard to make improvements in the Center space, which has allowed them to add programming. This has worked well and there has been a large increase in their daily attendance at the Center. She said they have started support groups for caregivers as well as those dealing with loss and have also started a Silver Alert program. With the use of grant money, they will soon be starting a Memory Café.

Thornton said their short-term goals are to match staffing to growing demand, to maintain and update their space, to continue outreach to town departments to host satellite programming, to continue community outreach, and to develop a three-year strategic plan. She said they realize that they cannot meet the needs of the growing senior population in their current space, so their long-term goal is to determine whether there are other sites in the town that could be utilized as a permanent satellite space or whether a new building will be needed. She said they will need the guidance of the Select Board on this.

There was a brief discussion of the need for increased parking at the current space as well as the challenge of affordable housing for seniors. The meeting of the COA Board was then adjourned.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

**Paul Sordillo, Director of Veteran's Services re: Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2022**

Constable said the Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the War Memorial. Awards will be given to essay winners from the Middle and High schools, and the War Memorial Commission will do a street dedication in honor of General Butch Neal.

**Robert DeCoste, Member, Hull Redevelopment Authority re: Letter of Resignation**

Lemnios said the Select Board will need to acknowledge this resignation and they will then need to have a joint meeting with the HRA to select a replacement.

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**UPDATES**

Pursel thanked Lemnios for the painting of the crosswalks. She said they look great and it makes a difference. She said she has a meeting tomorrow as the Board's representative to the Plymouth County Commissioners.

Constable said she met last Friday with Selectwomen from Cohasset and Scituate who hosted Katherine Antos, the new Director for Development and Sustainability at MAPC. She said that Chris Krahforst was there to speak on sustainability and that they were able to update Antos on things that were going on in the South Shore.

On a motion by Constable, seconded by Grey, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Recorded by Kathleen Fanning

Approved by:

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**Documents**

The following documents were included in the members' packets or were presented during the meeting and are available in the Select Board office upon request:

- Agenda for Select Board meeting on October 26, 2022
- List of 2022 – 2023 Activities of the Hull No Place for Hate Committee
- Memo from Paul Sordillo regarding Veteran's Day Activities
- Correspondence from Robert DeCoste regarding his resignation from the Hull Redevelopment Authority