



Advisory Committee MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2026

Concord Main Library in the Trustees Room

Concord, MA

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Members present, John Lee, Anne Irza-Leggat, Carlene Hempel (secretary), Polly Meyer, Alison Pray, Rita Raychaudhuri

Members absent: Ed Bernard, Pamela Hegarty, Kimberly Kossman

Visitors: Enid Karr (Concord)

Call to order: Jill Weintraub, director of Adult and Community Education, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Minutes: On a motion made by Anne Irza-Leggat and seconded by John Lee, the January minutes were unanimously approved.

Regular Business:

Concord Bookshop Window Display – March 9 @ 10:30: Jill said there are posters to install as well as a call-out for upcoming driver's education sessions. She needs help from one or two people to get the posters hung. Polly volunteered.

Village University overview: The program was started in 2003. There were a few community members who approached Court Booth, Jill's predecessor, about the program. The idea was to create a lifelong learning program geared toward the retirement community and to be held mostly in the mornings. The program was originally held in the fall and spring with four or five classes per semester. Today there is also a winter session, mostly on Zoom, which allows people to attend from anywhere. In theory, the idea for winter was to be a "mini session" – two or three courses offered to fit between the other two semesters. Also, members wanted a staggered start, which also benefits instructors because of the increased flexibility. Jill notes that the fall is the busiest season. Winter and spring have two to five courses offered. The target audience is primarily retired people. The instructors volunteer their time. The classes are free of tuition, though a donation of \$75 for the first class and \$45 for additional courses is requested in service to supporting the program. More than 100 people participate each semester.

Since the pandemic, many classes are now in person, but space continues to be a problem. Newbury Court on Newbury Court Road is a partner and hosts one course per semester. Polly suggested promoting the program as a way for people in different geographies – elder parents and their children, for example – to take a session together.

CCACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Program updates:

Adult Education: Jill said the new catalogue is a bit delayed because of the blizzard. It is scheduled to be at the printer by Monday and at homes starting on Tuesday. Registrations are coming in. Jill noted that July 1 is the deadline to propose a course for the fall semester.

Driver's Education: The February Break class was full. The new session that started the day classes began after break and snow days is almost full. Summer dates have been set: one session in June after school ends; two sessions in July; and one in August.

IMSCC:

- Three new voice teachers – two male and one female - were hired for the upcoming session.
- Enrollments are still coming in for the spring session. Summer dates will be released soon.

Registration and budget numbers: While some classes are not full, they are well attended. In general, courses around “self-care” – for example goal-setting and mental health – are undersubscribed. A class that helps students with their dating profile is an example of a course that has been successful. College and test prep also tends to be on the lower side of subscription rates. In that case, Jill theorizes many families are hiring private tutors instead.

Committee membership: Jill mentioned that three members' terms are ending: Pam, Polly and Anne. Polly and Anne will be returning but Pam will not be.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March. 20, at noon at the Ripley School on Meriam Road in Concord.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlene Hempel, secretary