

## **Minutes of the Special Commission on Senior Housing**

Date: March 20, 2025

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC)  
100 Cambridge Street, Conference Room B, Boston, MA 02114

*Note: attendance for the 3/20/25 Special Commission on Senior Housing meeting is hybrid.*

### **Members Present**

Secretary Ed Augustus  
Representative Thomas Stanley  
Representative Richard Haggerty  
Senator Patricia Jehlen  
Senator Peter Durant (virtual)  
Gretchen Van Ness (virtual)  
James Fuccione  
Jeffrey Sacks  
Jennifer Maynard  
Betsy Connell  
Elissa Sherman  
Carolyn Villers  
Ryan Berard  
Amy Schectman  
Kim Brooks  
Betsey Crimmins (virtual)  
Alma Balonon-Rosen  
Aaron Gornstein  
Andrew DeFranza

### **Others Present**

Julia Shields (virtual)  
Vicki Halal  
Jennifer L'Heureux  
Emily Levine  
Elizabeth Fay

### **EOHLC Staff**

Matt Walsh  
Eric Shupin  
Ben Bryant  
Gina McLaughlin  
Jack Burke (virtual)

### **Absent**

Emily Cooper

### **Call to Order & Swearing In**

Secretary Ed Augustus (Chair) welcomed members to the first meeting of the Special Commission on Senior Housing and called the meeting to order at 10:08.

All members of the Commission who were present at the meeting, both virtually and in-person, were sworn in. Pursuant to Open Meeting Law, the Chair named members of the Commission participating virtually.

### **Vote to Enable Remote Meeting Participation**

The Chair asked for a motion to enable Commission members to participate in meetings remotely. Andrew DeFranza made the motion, seconded by Amy Schectman. Matt Walsh called the roll. Members voted unanimously (19-0) to approve the ability of Commission members to participate remotely.

### **Member Introductions**

The Chair called on members of the Special Commission to introduce themselves. In introducing himself, the Chair noted that the Commission's work would be supported by data available through "A Home for Everyone: Massachusetts' Statewide Housing Plan" and "Building for Tomorrow: Recommendations for addressing Massachusetts' housing crisis." He further noted the Commission's work would be bolstered by the work of other related Special Commissions on Accessible Housing and Extremely Low-Income Housing.

Gina McLaughlin introduced herself and called on EOHLC staff to do the same. Matt Walsh, Ben Bryant, and Eric Shupin introduced themselves.

### **Commission Charge & Logistics**

The Chair called on Gina McLaughlin to discuss the Commission's charge and the tentative plan to fulfill that charge by the statutory reporting deadline. Gina noted that the State Housing Plan provides much of the data that will be needed for the Commission's work. Members note that in addition to the Commission's statutory charge, they are interested in focusing on co-living opportunities for older adults, increasing inventory for older adults looking to downsize, and identifying scalable models to provide for these needs.

Gina then reviewed the time commitment expected from members, planned meeting cadence, and likely focuses for upcoming meetings. She noted that a survey would be sent to members to help identify external guest speakers for upcoming meetings. The Chair noted that HLC is also interested in hearing from members what subgroups would be useful to complete the Commission's work.

Members requested a meeting focused on reviewing data related to the Commission's work.

### **Next Steps**

Gina discussed a planned monthly meeting cadence, gave a brief overview of the forthcoming survey's focus, and previewed upcoming meetings on data and housing production challenges.

### **Adjourn**

The Chair noted that the meeting's agenda had concluded, and he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Representative Haggerty made the motion, seconded by Senator Jehlen. The motion was approved unanimously (19-0) and the meeting adjourned at 10:58AM.

### **Materials: PowerPoint Presentation**