



**Our Mission Statement** Hingham Women's Club is an organization of women that serves the Hingham and South Shore communities, providing charitable giving, direct community service, and social opportunities for its members.

**Our Vision** is to have a local community well served, through partnerships, for those in need.

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## Hingham Women's Club Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2023

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Jenee Melgoza's House

### Board Updates

These are the minutes for the August 14, 2023 general meeting held at Jenee Melgoza's House

#### Attendees

- **Board:** (4) - Christine Andrews, Jenee Melgoza, Jennifer Sherman, Chris Campbell

Socializing from 7:00pm-7:30pm. Meeting started at 7:30pm.

A copy of the agenda was provided to all attendees.

- **By-Law Changes:** Jenn Sherman passed out copies of potential updates to by-laws
  - Term limits - Discussion about term limits for each board position and how to word it for by-laws. Jenn S. to write up draft and send via email. We will vote by email.
  - Membership and location - Discussion on whether or not to include women from outside of Hingham for membership. Voted yes to include anyone and will update by-laws
  - Membership code of conduct - Discussion on how to handle member mis-conduct and how to revoke membership if needed. Jenn S. to write draft and we will vote by email.
  - Membership gender Qs - Should membership be open to anyone regardless of gender. Tabled discussion for email discussion.
  - Section 2 by-law changes approved/voted yes - see below for changes

*I propose the following be added to our bylaws under Section 2 - all items currently listed in Section 2 to remain the same.*

- *Change title from "Section 2: No Members" to "Section 2: Membership*
- *Membership is open to any woman over the age of 21 who supports the purpose of the Hingham Women's Club.*
- *No membership or right arising from membership is transferable.*
- *All memberships in the Hingham Women's Club are annual or biennial, subject to renewal, except Lifetime Memberships.*
- *A Member may choose not to renew her membership or may cancel at any time. No dues refunds shall be issued.*

*I cannot find the membership requirement "living in Hingham" in our bylaws. The only discussion of membership is the following: "Section 2. NO MEMBERS The corporation shall have members by virtue of membership only. Membership is established by the payment of an annual membership fee. These members shall not have any voting rights. Any action or vote required or permitted by M.G.L. ch. 180 to be taken by members shall be taken by action or vote of the same percentage of directors in accordance with M.G. L. ch. 180, §3."*

*Here are my thoughts:*

- *We don't have an overwhelming amount of people trying to join us to limit membership based on place of residence. Our membership has been declining.*
- *I did not list specific towns because I think if anyone is willing to join and support our mission, I don't see why they should be excluded based on where they live and whether or not that town has a women's club. We're not trying to actively recruit members from those towns with women's clubs such as Norwell and Hanover.*
- *Serving the Hingham and South Shore Communities just tells me where we focus our efforts, not where you must reside to join.*
- *If we require members to live in Hingham, how are we verifying their residence? It seems silly to me to end someone's membership if they move from Hingham to a neighboring town.*
- *Eliminating the Hingham address requirement would resolve any issues of someone trying to join prior to moving to Hingham.*
- *I used the term "purpose" since purpose goes beyond the mission, acting as the unifying principle that drives everything our organization does.*

- **Calendar Dates and theme/location for general meetings discussed and planned**
  - Sept 13 - Kick Off (Tosca)
  - Oct 25 Laurie Trezza - Friends of the Homeless Speaker (get people fired up for FOT).
  - Nov 30 - HCC- FoT help. Hilary and Danielle to give ideas as to how big group can help. Gift giving wrapping/collecting for Families in need?
  - Dec - No meeting
  - Jan 31 - Library Speaker (at HPL).
  - Let me know who you think would be an interesting speaker and I'll see who we can get. These are probably the choices from which we should select: Director, Local History & Reference Librarian, or Children/Young Adult Librarian. Meredith
  - Feb. 28 - Senior Center Speaker at Senior Center (if they'll have us).
  - Just after the Valentine's Day Tea. I've always wondered what they do and where. Invite Ladies Club members. Pack lunch for Father Bills, look at community service. Christine
  - Mar. 27 St. John's Church. Kenzie Blackwell with Free. Service meeting - Chris to orgazine
  - April 24 - restaurant TBD on Greenside Grille. Jenee
  - May 23- End of Year Event (Historical Society) PARTY! fundraising idea? Jenn
- Taste of Hingham update - Meredith to connect Christine Mark Minister to Taste of Hingham
- Jenee - Newsletter cadence? Jenn suggested 2nd week of the month, no later than thursday
- Jenee- electronic membership program - tested with board members and others. Waiting for some people to reply.
- Christine - Presidential Service hours - we are certified and can verify service hours for teens. Perhaps add form to website for people to fill out with hour certification.
- Jenn Sherman - School on Wheels program needing backpacks. Board agreed to send backpack requests to members.

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Meeting ended at 9:15pm. By: Chris Campbell, Secretary of Hingham Women's Club