



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

DRAFT

September 18, 2025 (3:00 PM) – Council Chambers
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Members: Councilor & Chair Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Jeff Foot, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jen Kretovic, Natch Grayes, Kate Lipman, Lisa Brown, Steve Edwards

Staff: Fire Chief Chisholm, Acting Deputy Fire Chief Costello, Deputy Fire Chief Hebert, Deputy Police Chief Casey, Deputy Police Chief Smagula,

Minute Taker: Serina Chase

Welcome from the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by Councilor & Chair Amanda Grady Sexton.

Approval of the August 21st, 2025 meeting minutes

Motion made by Councilor Kretovic to approve the August 21st, 2025 meeting minutes. Councilor Fennessy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Jim Schlosser - Progress report on draft cold weather emergency plan created by Concord Coalition to End Homelessness and the Friendly Kitchen

- **Agencies Involved:** Friendly Kitchen and Concord Coalition to End Homelessness are coordinating winter warming coverage.
- **Plan:** Establish a standing protocol (temperature below 20°F triggers plan). Weekly Monday morning huddle with Public Safety and city staff to confirm activation.
- **Coverage:** Draft schedule provides 24/7 coverage between the two agencies during extreme cold.
- **Funding:** Both agencies applied for county winter sheltering funds; Concord Coalition also received ~\$20k increase from the City's FY26 budget.
- **Staffing & Volunteers:**
 - Each open slot requires at least one agency staff on site.



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- Agencies concerned about staffing reliability (e.g., illness, flu season). Backup plan includes recruiting and training additional volunteers with basic emergency/mental health skills.
- **Role of Other Agencies:**
 - Belknap-Merrimack CAP plays a smaller role; extended hours occasionally but not fully integrated.
 - Broader homelessness work involves 60+ agencies, but warming plan is focused on Friendly Kitchen and Concord Coalition.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Finalize plan with City Manager and align with city emergency management.
 - Recruit/train volunteers in advance of November–December cold weather.
 - Police and Fire will review due to their emergency management roles.

CPD - Healy Park update

Deputy Chief Smagula reported cleanup efforts of Healy Park, with Trauma 24 successfully handling trash removal and Raymond's Landscaping raising the canopy, though wetland restrictions limited access. Significant progress has been made. About a dozen people were displaced; Merrimack County CAP noted that three have since been housed.

Concerns were raised about increased visibility of homeless women, panhandling, and related activity downtown, as well as break-ins near the rail line. It was noted that dispersing large encampments often shifts activity to surrounding areas, requiring continued monitoring.

Councilor Jim Schlosser - Review of latest Homelessness Data Report for Merrimack County from the NH Bureau of Homelessness Services

- **Report Source:**
 - NH Bureau of Homeless Services; monthly data from Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Covers Merrimack County, with potential to refine for Concord-specific data.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - 679 clients served; 347 actively homeless (unduplicated).
 - New clients: 35 (plus 34 returning, split between previously housed and inactive/returning).



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- Exits: 13 to positive destinations (housing); others exited due to inactivity, temporary housing, moving, death, or incarceration.
- **Coordinated Entry & Housing Queue:**
 - Clients assessed/scored for coordinated entry; higher vulnerability means higher priority.
 - Roughly 52% of actively homeless clients are not on any housing queue, raising concern about access to subsidies/vouchers.
- **Demographics & Situations:**
 - About 50% of homeless clients trace last known address to Concord; many others from surrounding NH towns.
 - Growing number of older adults (55+) experiencing homelessness.
 - 15 veterans identified in county data; local veteran case conferences cover about 10 regularly.
 - High prevalence of disabilities among clients.
- **Length of Homelessness:**
 - 198 individuals homeless for over 730 days (chronic homelessness remains significant).
- **Community Impact & Concerns:**
 - Concord bears disproportionate burden, with many clients coming from outside Concord.
 - Discussion about encouraging surrounding communities to contribute resources/solutions.
 - Concerns raised about some partner agencies offering free services (e.g., meal programs, clean needle distribution) and potential unintended impacts.
- **Discussion & Next Steps:**
 - Suggestion to analyze zip code data more deeply to track out-of-town impact.
 - Monitor the progress of the Legislative Service Request (LSR) filed proposing MOUs/fines for towns that transfer homeless individuals without agreements—unlikely to pass but could guide voluntary agreements.

Agenda setting

- Kate Lipman – Harm reduction writeup overview



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- Councilor Kretovic - Follow-up on neighborhood speeding concerns in Wards 1–3 (Sewell Falls, Manor Rd, Abbott Rd, Fisherville Rd), including patrol data review, school zone impacts, and broader citywide speeding patterns.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Fennessy. Natch Greyes seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.