

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
March 19, 2009
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Helen Hicks,
Dan Goldberg, Nina Silverstein, Colleen
Schaller, Roma Jean Brown, Jim Dolan, Andrea
Rae, Risa Greendlinger
NOT PRESENT: Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Derrek Shulman
STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner and Sherry Jackson
CONVENE: 7:00 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. **Call To Order - 7:00 p.m. - S. Hughes**
S. Hughes, Chair, called the March 19, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

- II. **Approve Minutes:**
Motion by D. Goldberg that the Board vote to approve the February 12, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
Second by C. Schaller. Unanimously approved.

- III. **New Staff Member Introduction:**
J. Brenner Gutner introduced the newest member of the COA staff, Paula Angell. Ms. Angell is the new Outreach Coordinator. The Board introduced themselves. Ms. Angell provided some background on her experience, education, and interest in working at the COA. She stated that she is working on the Friendly Visitor Program and the B.A.G.S. Program coordinating volunteers and promoting the service. The Board discussed how to recruit more volunteers to help.

- IV. **Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
 - A. S. Hughes reported that she received a thank you note from the Brenner Family.

 - B. S. Hughes suggested the Board discuss the COA's reaccreditation and whether now is the appropriate time to be pursuing the initiative. She stated that the current accreditation lasts through 2009 and it takes approximately six months to go through the accreditation process. The Board asked several

questions about the accreditation process and the impact of not being accredited. N. Silverstein stated that the process has significant stakeholder involvement that would be helpful. S. Hughes stated that Lois Camberg might again be available to help with the project but that it would require significant assistance from staff and the Board. J. Dolan asked if accreditation has any impact on state funding. J. Brenner Gutner explained that at this time it does not. The Board asked J. Brenner Gutner to ask Lois Camberg for an overview and timeline as to what might be required if reaccreditation was pursued.

V. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

- A. J. Brenner Gutner reported that the SHINE Appreciation Lunch went very well. The Board discussed the value of the services provided by the SHINE Program in helping seniors properly enroll in Medicare.
- B. S. Jackson reported that the Hometown Weekly is planning on expanding the section in the paper that provides senior information.

VI. Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report - R.J. Brown

R.J. Brown reported that the FRIENDS meeting was cancelled due to weather. She reported that over 900 people have asked to receive the Compass and 200 requested it solely via e-mail. She stated that May will be the last issue sent to all seniors in town. After May, only those that requested to receive the publication will get it. C. Schaller thought the FRIENDS might be interested in knowing that the Charles River ARC now makes customized buttons at a very reasonable cost.

VII. Committee Updates:

1. Senior Center Exploratory Committee - C. deLemos

C. deLemos reported on the work of the Committee. She stated that Board of Selectmen

James Healy and Denise Garlick have been very supportive of the project. She stated that the final version of the survey, to go out to all residents, is still not complete. She stated that the survey also acts as a tool to educate residents on the services offered by a senior center. The Committee is holding a public hearing on March 23, 2009 at the Stephen Palmer Senior Center at 7:00 p.m. to seek input from the public on the senior center project. The Board agreed that the process has helped build broader support among residents.

The Board discussed how the upcoming election may change the makeup of the Board of Selectmen and how this might impact the senior center project. S. Jackson stated that the "Candidate's Forum" is scheduled for April 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center and most candidates have confirmed attendance.

The Board discussed the issue of getting reimbursed by the Town for their expenditure to develop a feasibility plan for Ridge Hill. It was stated that the article may be withdrawn from the Town Meeting Warrant. The Board expressed disappointment. Board members agreed to speak individually with Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen members on the issue and to draft a letter to both groups reiterating the COA's desire for reimbursement. S. Hughes stated that she would draft the letter.

2. Visibility Committee - A. Rae

A. Rae stated that M.E. Weadock will be bringing back communication information from the NCOA Conference. She stated that she is still looking at options for a display board.

VIII. Board Meeting Updates:

R. Greendlinger: Mentioned that her daughter and 15 other girls performed at several nursing homes over the past few weeks.

R.J. Brown: Stated that it is believed that the

cause of her stress fracture may have been in part to taking the drug Fosamax. Doctor's are examining the long term impacts of taking the drug and have noticed a reduction in bone density.

A. Rae: Reported that she is a grandmother again. Her daughter gave birth to a baby boy.

N. Silverstein: Reported that she went to an event on March 10th where Ann Hartstein received a National Association of Social Workers Award.

J. Dolan: Reported that he went to St. Augustine, Florida and had a wonderful time.

C. Schaller: Stated that she was contacted by the Town and the Town is dedicating the 2009 Annual Town Report to her.

VIII.

Adjourn (8:30 p.m.):

Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to adjourn the March 19, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting. Second by N. Silverstein. Unanimously approved.