

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
April 16, 2009
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Helen Hicks,
Dan Goldberg, Nina Silverstein, Mary Elizabeth
Weadock, Jim Dolan, Andrea Rae, Risa
Greendlinger, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Derrek
Shulman

NOT PRESENT: Colleen Schaller, Roma Jean Brown

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 April 16, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

- II. **Approve Minutes:**
Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to approve the March 19, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes.
Second by D. Goldberg. Unanimously approved.

- III. **Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
 - A. S. Hughes stated that she sent a letter to the Finance Committee requesting support for the Article in the Town Meeting Warrant that would reimburse the COA for the funds it spent on a feasibility study of Ridge Hill. She stated that she thinks the article will be withdrawn. The Board discussed how it should communicate with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. The Board acknowledged that the current financial climate is not good but still expressed its disappointment over the likelihood of not being reimbursed. Some members felt that it would be worthwhile to be present at the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen meetings when the article is discussed.

The Board discussed how its role as a Board has changed since moving to a Town Manager form of government and how it would be helpful

to have the role redefined. J. Dolan suggested one possibility would be to have the Board draft a statement that defines their understanding of the COA Board's role and then to ask the Board of Selectmen to review and comment.

- B. S. Hughes asked members if they would like to make a contribution in recognition of C. Schaller's husband who recently suddenly passed away. The Board agreed to make a donation to one of the requested charities.

V. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

- A. J. Brenner Gutner stated that the overall monthly report seemed shorter than normal because of the brief time between the past two Board meetings. She stated that she has not been told of any funding cuts for the COA in FY2010.
- B. The Board discussed the Senior Center Exploratory Committee's recent survey distributed through the Needham Exchange Club's Phone Directory.

VI. Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report
There was no report on the FRIENDS.

VII. Committee Updates:

1. Senior Center Exploratory Committee - C. deLemos

C. deLemos reported that members of the Committee met yesterday with seniors and others at the senior center to provide information on the process and goal of this effort. Two people expressed a desire for an override for potential funding since they felt that the town had handled other projects in this way.

C. deLemos stated that the Committee has discussed meeting with various organizations and groups within Town to gather input and garner support. She stated that the senior

center survey is available on-line and information in the survey will be compiled through a software package. The Board discussed elements of the survey. M.E. Weadock stated that the Committee's work will result in a proposed feasibility study of up to three potential locations.

2. Visibility Committee - A. Rae

A. Rae stated that she is working on a display board, which will allow for flexibility in the information presented. She stated that several graphic options are being considered and various images will be produced so that the display can be customized for a specific audience.

3. Springwell - M.E. Weadock

M.E. Weadock provided the Board with an update on the managed intake process being implemented by Springwell. She stated that Springwell has a Mother's Day fundraiser planned. Bouquets of flowers are being sold with a portion of the proceeds going to Springwell.

VIII. NCOA/ASA Conference - M.E. Weadock

M.E. Weadock provided the Board with a summary of her attendance at the NCOA/ASA conference in Las Vegas. She stated that overall attendance at the conference was down and the program was thinner than in past years. She stated that there were many sessions on policy and a focus on keeping seniors independent. M.E. Weadock provided a summary of a session she attended on senior centers.

VIII. Board Meeting Updates:

R. Greendlinger: Mentioned that the BVNA (Boston Visiting Nurse Association) and the Town of Brookline are collaborating on a teleconferencing program on senior issues. She also stated that there is a panel discussion on healthcare costs at North Hill on May 1, 2009.

C. deLemos: Announced that she recently became a grandmother for the tenth time.

D. Shulman: Informed the Board that the ADL has been working with the Needham Police Department to solve the recent bomb scares. He stated that the police are doing a great job. He stated that the Governor should be announcing the new Secretary of Elder Affairs shortly.

N. Silverstein: Announced that she recently provided testimony at the State House on the Impaired Driver Bill.

D. Goldberg: Stated that the COA should look into a program in the federal stimulus package that might offer a \$1,000 stipend to volunteers for use toward a college education.

VIII.

Adjourn (8:40 p.m.):

Motion by D. Goldberg that the Board vote to adjourn the April 16, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting. Second by D. Shulman.

Unanimously approved.