

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
May 14, 2009
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Helen Hicks, Dan Goldberg,
Nina Silverstein, Mary Elizabeth Weadock,
Andrea Rae, Roma Jean Brown, Risa
Greendlinger, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Derrek
Shulman

NOT PRESENT: Colleen Schaller, Jim Dolan, Carol deLemos

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 May 14, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

- II. **Approve Minutes:**
Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to approve the April 16, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes.
Second by R. Greendlinger. Unanimously approved.

- III. **Re-Accreditation Overview - Lois Camberg**
The Board discussed whether to pursue re-accreditation and invited Lois Camberg to the meeting to participate in the discussion. Ms. Camberg led the COA through its last re-accreditation. The Board acknowledged that to go through the re-accreditation process would require a significant commitment of time and resources both of COA staff and the Board. D. Goldberg did not think that now was the right time to pursue such an endeavor. The Needham COA was the first program to be accredited in Massachusetts. N. Silverstein was in favor of pursuing the re-accreditation and suggested that outside assistance could help with the process.

Ms. Camberg stated that there would be a need to have a person coordinating the effort but that it also requires the formation of several working groups to complete the project. The Board agreed that the re-accreditation process would likely reaffirm the need for a new senior center.

S. Hughes expressed her interest in knowing how pursuit of re-accreditation would impact the work of staff and what work would be lost. The Board acknowledged that it would be a lot of work and require significant commitment on behalf of staff, but there are several good reasons to want to pursue re-accreditation. J. Brenner Gutner stated that there would likely need to be some tradeoffs.

The Board discussed timing of when the process of re-accreditation should start, if pursued. The Board determined that, if Ms. Camberg could help lead the process and with active participation from the Board, it would make sense to pursue the re-accreditation.

Motion by N. Silverstein that the Board vote that the Council on Aging engage in the process of re-accreditation of the COA through NISC (National Institute of Senior Centers). Second by M.E. Weadock. Approved 7-2. D. Goldberg and D. Shulman voted nay.

D. Shulman stated that re-accreditation is a long and difficult process and he was not certain it was worth the effort. The Board agreed to set realistic goals and timelines for the project. The Board asked Ms. Camberg to get back to them before the next meeting about the scope of work and level of effort breakdown for the project.

IV. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes

- A. S. Hughes stated that the Article in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to reimburse the COA for the Ridge Hill Feasibility Study was withdrawn. Many Board members expressed their objections to the withdrawal and to the tone of some discussions at Town Meeting. There was an inordinate amount of discussion at Town Meeting regarding the \$1,000 allocation for the Needham Property Tax Assistance Program. Many Board members stated that the conversation, particularly the presentation by the Finance Committee, was confrontational and fragmenting the Town. The Board agreed to send a response to the local newspaper addressing the issue.

V. Donations:

Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to approve and accept the donations as presented.

Winter 09

Norma and Larry Wolozin in honor of Cecelia Rosenberg
Alvera Emanuello
Patricia McMorrow
Norman Abbott
Clara Clements
Dorothy Esperian in memory of Leo & Mary Esperian
Goldie Berkowsky
Isabell Horvath
Naomi Mael Litrownick in memory of Henry Esterman
Lois Camberg in honor of hard working staff
Helen Marsman in memory of Billie Brenner
Needham Retired Men's Glee Club in memory of Henry Esterman
Needham Pool Players in honor of Frank Farrar
Joseph Davis in memory of Helen Davis
James & Helen Delaney in memory of LaTanya Steele
Helen Butler in memory of Frank Farrar
Misc. Donations
Total: \$955.00

Transportation Donations - Winter 09

Misc. Donation	\$285.60
Misc. Donation	\$249.40
Misc. Donation	<u>\$169.00</u>
	\$704.00

Donations Spring 09

Leo and Marie Treggiari in memory of Ken Monteith
Mary Craft
Edward Lambert Jr. in memory of Edward Lambert
Catherine Carr
Willard Hicks Jr.
Anna Venable
Barbara Pedersen
Katherine Basler
Sally Dugan
Total: \$540.00

Second by D. Goldberg. Unanimously approved.

VI. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

M.E. Weadock asked that a review of funding sources for the COA be provided at a future meeting. J. Brenner Gutner stated she would be happy to provide such an overview in her next report.

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

R.J. Brown stated that the next Compass will switch to the new distribution through e-mail. She also stated that the FRIENDS Annual Meeting is coming up and will be an ice cream social.

VIII. Committee Updates:

1. Visibility Committee - A. Rae:

A. Rae stated that a display unit has been found and will be ordered. The hope is to have the display ready by June 6th.

2. Springwell - M.E. Weadock

M.E. Weadock stated that the managed intake process is working well and all requests are being met. She stated that there is real concern regarding budget cuts to Homecare services.

3. Senior Center Exploratory Committee - M.E. Weadock

M.E. Weadock reported that the Committee has begun to meet with various community groups within Town to explain the work of the Committee, educate the groups on the issue and receive feedback. She stated that the data from the town wide survey has not been compiled yet. N. Silverstein questioned whether the scope of the presentation by the Committee to stakeholder groups is in keeping with the Committee's charge.

M.E. Weadock stated that she also attended the Board of Selectmen meeting where the article on reimbursing the COA for the Ridge Hill Feasibility Study was discussed. She stated that the Board seemed sincere in its intent to reimburse the COA.

IX. Board Meeting Updates:

R. Greendlinger: Mentioned that participation in the VNA teleconferences on aging were low.

A. Rae: Stated that she was in Texas last week and many areas were shut down due to the H1N1 virus. She also mentioned that a former exchange student that stayed with her during high school is graduating from law school this month.

N. Silverstein: mentioned that the Mass Alzheimer's Conference was held yesterday.

X. Adjourn (8:45 p.m.):

Motion by D. Shulman that the Board vote to adjourn the May 14, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting. Second by D. Goldberg. Unanimously approved.