

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
September 17, 2009
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Dan Goldberg,
Nina Silverstein, Mary Elizabeth Weadock,
Colleen Schaller, Jim Dolan, Andrea Rae,
Derrek Shulman

Not Present: Risa Greendlinger, Roma Jean Brown

Staff: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson

Convener: 7:00 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 7:00 p.m. - Carol deLemos**
C. deLemos, Vice Chair, called the September 17, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to approve the June 11, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
Second by M.E. Weadock. Unanimously approved.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
- A. S. Hughes stated that Helen Hicks has resigned from the Council on Aging. S. Hughes stated that Helen Hicks has served on the COA for twenty years and that her long service should be reflected in the minutes. S. Hughes stated that she had been asked by Helen not to announce her resignation at the June Board meeting. S. Hughes stated that H. Hicks' vacancy should be filled by the next COA Board meeting and noted that the Board of Selectmen had not contacted her regarding filling this vacancy.
 - B. N. Silverstein offered to host a reception for H. Hicks in October. She will contact Helen to discuss this possibility. N. Silverstein suggested that H. Hicks should be honored at the November Town Meeting for her service on the Council on Aging Board. No determination was made.

C. S. Hughes stated that the Willgoose Lecture is scheduled for some time in November. It was agreed that N. Silverstein will present on the topic of driving. N. Silverstein and S. Jackson will organize date and time.

IV. Executive Director – J. Brenner Gutner:

J. Brenner Gutner expressed her respect for the thoroughness, thoughtfulness and commitment of the Senior Center Exploratory Committee. S. Jackson responded to S. Hughes' question on the "Senior to Senior" program at Needham High School that was written about in the Board report. She clarified that the first meeting of this program would be 10/14/09. It is a free exercise program sponsored by the high school's Health and Wellness Dept. and the high school's Community Service program in collaboration with the Needham Council on Aging. S. Jackson stated that seniors would be paired with high school seniors to learn strength and conditioning exercises using Keiser strength training and fitness equipment. S. Jackson stated that she would distribute a schedule to Council on Aging Board Members and that information will be sent to the Needham Times.

J. Brenner Gutner responded to S. Hughes' question on the Formula Grant with regards to positions, noting that positions that are currently funded by this program would not be reduced. J. Brenner Gutner spoke briefly about the SHINE program and the potential for increased funding. J. Brenner Gutner was asked for further information on the B.A.G.S. program which she will provide in her next Board Report.

Nina Silverstein asked how MySeniorCenter assists in compiling needed statistical information. J. Brenner Gutner shared that the company is very responsive to questions and concerns and has instituted some changes to the program based on our suggestions. The information can be utilized for base line information and trends. It is an important tool and she would not recommend going back to paper only.

L. Camberg spoke briefly about reaccreditation planning and reported on the development of committees. L. Camberg reported that a town-wide "Kick-off" is scheduled for December 2, 2009. N. Silverstein suggested that flyers on this event be made available for the November Town Meeting.

V. Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report - J.Brenner Gutner:

J.Brenner Gutner stated that Nancy Wetherell has taken over Boutique responsibilities and is establishing her own routine. She is planning to have the Boutique operating during the December election. The group also asked for an update on the department's Transportation Program and the issues that are being encountered regarding funding. She further reported that there was also a discussion at the meeting about how to heighten awareness of the Friends and what support they provide for departmental programs and services.

VI. Committee Updates:

1. Visibility Committee - Andrea Rae

Board members discussed the Harvest Fair and how to provide coverage for this event and decided not to participate this year.

2. Springwell - M.E. Weadock

M.E. Weadock reported that Springwell funding is very tight and that although at this time there are no planned staffing cuts, intake would be managed and limited for the foreseeable future.

3. Senior Center Exploratory Committee - C. Schaller:

C. deLemos stated that there have been three public hearings, and that approximately 90 people attended last night's meeting to further discuss the sites that will likely be recommended to the Board of Selectmen for further study. Money for feasibility will be requested at the November Town meeting.

At the last meeting of the SCEC on September 16, the committee voted to recommend the following sites for further study in the following order: Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Ridge, Greens Field. Ridge Hill would be in the mix if the Presbyterian Church, as an alternative, does not become a reality. An RFP related to the potential purchase will be going out soon. Board members discussed various site options. C. Schaller stated that there is a timeline that is included in the selectman's goals.

C. deLemos reported on the survey process. She clarified that information gathered had no statistical relevance and could only show trends. It was recommended that the COA should send a statement to the Board of Selectmen stating that the COA is in support of the Exploratory Committee's recommendations.

A motion was made by N. Silverstein that the COA acknowledges the work of the Exploratory Committee and is in unanimous support of their recommendations. Second by A. Rae. Unanimously approved.

M.E. Weadock stated that the Board of Selectmen meeting would be Tuesday, September 22, 2009 and that the Exploratory Committee would be presenting their findings and recommendations.

VII. Board Member Update:

Nina Silverstein: reminded members of the upcoming meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans and the Massachusetts Home Care Conference.

Jamie Brenner Gutner: reminded members that the Needham Team will be participating once again in Memory Walk that is coming up at the end of September.

Members discussed: the 25th Anniversary of

North Hill and the Massachusetts Gerontology Association Fall Policy Forum being held on September 30.

Adjourn (8:45 p.m.)

A motion was made for the Board to adjourn the September 17, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting. It was seconded and unanimously approved.