

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
October 8, 2009
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Dan Goldberg,
Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Colleen Schaller,
James Dolan, Derrek Shulman, Risa
Greendlinger, Roma Jean Brown, Scott
Brightman

Not Present: Andrea Rae, Nina Silverstein,

Staff: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson

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

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 7:00 p.m. - Susanne Hughes**
S. Hughes, Chair, called the October 8, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
Motion by Risa Greendlinger that the Board vote to approve the September 17, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
Second by Carol deLemos. Unanimously approved.
S. Brightman abstained.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
- A. S. Hughes began the meeting by welcoming newly appointed Council on Aging member Scott Brightman. S. Brightman thanked Board members for their warm welcome. S. Brightman stated that he moved to Needham 10 years ago and shared some of his background with the members. Council on Aging Board members shared their credentials and qualifications as well.
 - B. S. Hughes stated that she sent a letter to Dan Matthews expressing support for the Senior Center Exploratory Committee's recommendations. S. Hughes expressed her interest in learning how he envisions the role of the Senior Center Exploratory Committee (SCEC) and the Council on Aging Board in developing a new Senior Center. As a member of the SCEC, C. Schaller stated

that at this time she is unclear as to what the roles will be.

- C. L. Camberg was available at the meeting to answer questions regarding the reaccreditation process. She stated that invitations will go out during the first week in November and that information packets for committees are available. L. Camberg noted that committees would not be assigned until after the kick-off meeting on December 2.

IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner:

J. Brenner Gutner stated that compiling her monthly Executive Director's Report helps her to review the accomplishments and ongoing goals of the department. She reminded the Board that appropriate staff members submit a report to her monthly and pertinent information is then incorporated into her larger report.

D. Goldberg inquired about Crowninshield and whether or not they are being more responsive than they have been in the past. J. Brenner Gutner replied that she and S. Jackson found them to be responsible when confronted with building issues that are brought to them.

S. Hughes stated that additional 9C cuts to the governor's budget are expected, which could mean additional cuts for Aging Services in the State. J. Brenner Gutner spoke briefly about how she develops the budget and what different funding sources pay for. She noted that the Council on Aging would likely be all right for this fiscal year. S. Hughes added that needs are increasing and, based on what she has heard, the budget picture looks very bleak.

A lengthy discussion ensued on issues relating to transportation and the van. J. Brenner Gutner recapped the past funding from the MBTA. She stated that the town does not contribute to the cost of operating the van except for covering the insurance. Mileage was discussed, as well as the life expectancy. J. Brenner Gutner checks with

New England Wheels yearly regarding life expectancy and cost of a potential new vehicle as she prepares for the budget process. She stated that the van is an important component in helping to address the nutritional needs of many of the senior citizens of Needham. The discussion also included fundraising options.

V. Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report - Roma Jean Brown:

R. J. Brown reported that many people feel it really helps that the Compass is online. She has received no complaints. D. Goldberg asked what the percentage of online users is. Sherry will let him know.

R. J. Brown reported that the FRIENDS are looking for a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to help them. R. J. Brown also reported that FRIENDS voted to purchase the "Driving Smart" software to donate to the Senior Center. R. J. Brown stated that the software helps to analyze driving ability. Board members asked how it works. S. Jackson stated that she would find out and report back.

VI. Committee Updates:

1. Visibility Committee -

Board members discussed the possibility of developing a flyer to be distributed at Town Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2009.

2. Springwell - M.E. Weadock

M.E. Weadock reported that everyone is on edge regarding the 9C budget cuts.

3. Senior Center Exploratory Committee - C. Schaller:

C. Schaller reported that the Exploratory Committee is in a holding pattern. C. Schaller referenced a letter in the paper that addressed displeasure at the possibility of the church becoming a Senior Center. Board members discussed comments made at the public hearings and Exploratory Committee members talked about what they

took into consideration regarding possible sites. Board members discussed the Presbyterian Church property as well as other site options.

S. Hughes asked what the charge of the Exploratory Committee is. C. deLemos stated that the charge of the Exploratory Committee was to find a site and size, not a program or design, and submit findings to the Board of Selectmen. S. Hughes stated that there is a tremendous amount of expertise on the Council on Aging Board that could help address what the programming needs would be. S. Hughes stated that she would like the COA to take a proactive position on this issue.

VII. Board Member Update:

Mass Home Care Conference
NCOA, Chicago, March 15-19, 2010

Adjourn (8:24 p.m.)

A motion was made by R. J. Brown for the Board to adjourn the October, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting. It was seconded by Derrek Shulman and unanimously approved.