

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
November 12, 2009
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Dan Goldberg, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Risa Greendlinger, Roma Jean Brown, Scott Brightman

Not Present: Carol deLemos, Andrea Rae, Derrek Schulman, Colleen Schaller, Nina Silverstein, Jim Dolan

Staff: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson

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

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 7:05 p.m. - Susanne Hughes**
S. Hughes, Chair, called the November 12, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
Motion by Risa Greendlinger that the Board vote to approve the October 8, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
Second by Roma Jean Brown. Unanimously approved.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
- A. S. Hughes deferred her report to allow Lois Camberg to present an update on the COA re-accreditation process. L. Camberg stated that she received many responses to the invitation and reported on which groups received an email invitation and which groups received their invitation through the mail. S. Hughes suggested that phone calls be made if not enough responses are received. R. Greendlinger volunteered to help make phone calls should the need arise. L. Camberg reminded everyone that the COA reaccreditation kick-off meeting would take place on December 2nd and that after this date committees could be formed.
 - B. S. Hughes began her report. She stated that the Board might consider convening a committee to put together a long range plan. Board members were asked to think about this

carefully so that this matter could be discussed at a future Board meeting when more members are present. S. Brightman stated that in terms of Town planning, the more organized the COA is the better it is for the department. J. Brenner Gutner stated that the department has many concerns beside the physical plant. The staff deals with issues such as homelessness, nutritional needs, employment and mental health concerns, etc. on a regular basis along with funding issues, etc. How we address current and future needs is a priority on a daily basis. After a general discussion, it was suggested that discussion on this matter continue.

- C. S. Hughes reported on her discussion with Dan Matthews and the Selectmen's plans to hold a public hearing on Monday, December 7th at 7pm at the Broadmeadow School to discuss Senior Center site locations and expenditure of feasibility funding that was appropriated at the November 2009 Special Town Meeting. COA Board members discussed this matter at length and discussed how to follow up.

M.E. Weadock explained briefly how the Permanent Public Building Committee is likely to proceed. J. Brenner Gutner added some insight as to what the feasibility study would be trying to ascertain and stated that this phase of the process would not be related to actual design. At this point information will need to be gathered related to the sites determined by the Selectmen for feasibility. This will help determine if the site could accommodate the suggested size, parking needs, etc. that have been identified by the Senior Center Exploratory Committee. J. Brenner Gutner also noted that the users appointed to the Permanent Public Building Committee for this part of the process will not necessarily be the same appointees that deliberate design options, after money is approved at Town Meeting for the design phase.

IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner:

J. Brenner Gutner stated that Outreach Worker, Paula Angell, has resigned from her position effective November 13th. J. Brenner Gutner stated that once this position has been reviewed by the Town Manager she will know if we can advertise to fill the position.

S. Jackson presented information in response to D. Goldberg's question from a previous meeting on the percentage of on-line users.

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

R. J. Brown reported that many people feel it helps that the Compass is online. She has received no complaints.

R.J. Brown reported that we received money from Roche Brothers Supermarkets for the transportation fund. R. J. Brown stated that they will be starting their annual membership drive. Information will go out through the Senior Compass. R. Greendlinger suggested that the Chair of Friends send a letter to the local paper announcing membership. S. Brightman suggested that Face Book be used as a tool to increase membership, noting that it is a way of inviting people in and posting current events, etc. R. Greendlinger volunteered to show the Friends how to set up and use Face Book if they are interested. R. J. Brown would give R. Greendlinger contact information to the Friends Chair.

VI. Committee Updates:

1. Visibility Committee -

COA Board members confirmed that a flyer was distributed at Town Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2009.

2. Springwell - M.E. Weadock

M.E. Weadock reported that the profile of consumers is changing with more complex issues coming forth. M.E. Weadock stated that Springwell is now helping to provide 7

day a week 24-hour care. M.E. Weadock stated that there is a new program in Brookline, which is fee for service and paid monthly by clients. M.E. Weadock stated managed intake is still taking place, but in spite of the funding issues Springwell continues to look for ways to improve and offer great services.

VII. **Board Member Update:**

Department of Veterans Affairs - Homeless Veterans Summit was held at the beginning of November 2009

National Council on Aging meeting will be held in Chicago, March 15-19, 2010

Adjourn (8:34 p.m.)

A motion was made by Dan Goldberg for the Board to adjourn the November 12, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting. It was seconded by R. Greendlinger and unanimously approved.