

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
December 10, 2009
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Dan Goldberg, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Risa Greendlinger, Roma Jean Brown, Carol deLemos, Andrea Rae, Derrek Schulman, Colleen Schaller, Nina Silverstein,
Not Present: Jim Dolan, Scott Brightman
Staff: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson
Convener: 7:00 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

I. Call To Order - 7:05 p.m. - Susanne Hughes
S. Hughes, Chair, called the December 10, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

II. Approve Minutes:
Motion by Roma Jean Brown that the Board vote to approve the October 8, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
Second by Mary Elizabeth Weadock. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Mary Elizabeth Weadock that the Board vote to approve the November 12, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
Second by Roma Jean Brown. Unanimously approved.

III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes

- A. S. Hughes thanked the COA Board for their feedback regarding her letter to the editor of the Needham Times. S. Hughes stated that another letter would be sent to the co-chairs of the Senior Center Exploratory Committee and the Selectmen.
- B. S. Hughes spoke briefly about a conversation she had at a recent meeting regarding how long it took Belmont to build a Senior Center.
- C. S. Hughes reported that over fifty people attended the Reaccreditation Kick-off Meeting on Wednesday, December 2nd. S. Hughes stated that the Steering Committee would meet on the 16th to talk about sub-

committees. S. Hughes noted that some members of the Greens Field Committee expressed interest in the process.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that she and L. Camberg felt very positive about the Reaccreditation Kick-off meeting.

- D. S. Hughes stated that once the work of the reaccreditation initiative and the Senior Center Exploratory Committee is done, she would like the COA Board members to focus on the development of a Council on Aging Strategic Plan. After a lengthy discussion, the COA Board agreed to move forward with this suggestion, which would begin sometime next fall. S. Hughes stated that no action would be taken regarding this at tonight's meeting, but encouraged the COA Board to think about whether a facilitator or outside group(s) would be involved in guiding the COA in this endeavor. R. Greendlinger and D. Schulman have offered to assist with the preliminary footwork in terms of identifying organizations that might help, facilitators and what COA counterparts' strategic plans look like.

IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner:

J. Brenner Gutner stated because of LaTanya's innovative efforts we have received inquiries from potential volunteers for our Friendly Visitor Program.

J. Brenner Gutner reported that during the open enrollment period there is a lot going on with SHINE. She expressed an appreciation of community partnerships in fulfilling our goals.

C. deLemos asked if Outreach Worker Paula Angell's decision to resign was expected.

J. Brenner Gutner responded that it was expected, as Paula was honest, upfront and very conflicted about accepting a similar position that offered more benefits. J. Brenner Gutner stated the position would be posted. J. Brenner Gutner stated that she had received the go ahead to post the Building Monitor position as well.

S. Hughes stated that the budget is going in as level funded except for salaries. S. Hughes stated that N. Silverstein did a great job presenting at the Annual Willgoose Lecture. S. Hughes commented on the number of trips noted on the Council on Aging monthly transportation report and that the transportation issue comes up quite a bit. J. Brenner Gutner noted that the big issue is related to the need for transportation to grocery shopping and medical appointments.

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

Friends of the Needham Elderly did not meet this month; nothing to report.

VI. Donations:

Motion by A. Rae that the COA Board vote to approve and accept the donations as presented. Seconded by C. Schaller. Unanimously approved.

VII. Committee Updates:

1. Springwell - M.E. Weadock

M.E. Weadock reported that recent Medicaid cuts were rescinded. At this time Springwell programs will continue. She also reported that the new ethics law needs exploration as far as how it affects organizations such as Springwell. Hopefully, questions will be answered soon. M. E. Weadock also stated that all personal caregivers might be required to join a union.

M. E. Weadock presented an update on strategic goals for Springwell's local Area Plan on Aging. M.E. Weadock stated that the report is an eye opening experience on progress made, goals and accomplishments. Also, all ASAPs will be participating in an RFP process. It was stated that Roma Jean Brown has been elected as the Chair of the Springwell Advisory Board.

2. Senior Center Exploratory Committee - C. Schaller

S. Hughes noted that this committee did an excellent job at the public hearing. C. Schaller reported on comments made at the public hearing. C. Schaller stated that Dan Matthews deserves credit for dispelling some misconceptions. C. Schaller stated that Monday night the Senior Center Exploratory Committee would be meeting and that the representatives to the PPBC would also attend the PPBC meeting. M.E. Weadock stated that after the feasibility study the selectmen would have the final say.

3. Visibility Committee - A. Rae

A. Rae thanked J. Brenner Gutner for the flyer that was distributed at Town Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2009. A. Rae suggested that a Board Member attend the NCOA conference in Chicago, March 15-19, 2010. It was the general consensus of the COA Board that a member could attend. A. Rae spoke briefly about her visit to two Senior Centers in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A. Rae noted that the centers are for 50+ populations and are extremely important to the community. A. Rae also talked about the amazing programming that is offered at the centers.

VIII. Board Member Update:

NCOA, Chicago, March 15-19, 2010

Adjourn (8:21 p.m.)

A motion was made by Derrek Schulman for the Board to adjourn the December 10, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting. It was seconded by C. Schaller and unanimously approved.