

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
March 11, 2010
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Jim Dolan, Dan Goldberg,
Andrea Rae, Nina Silverstein, Mary Elizabeth
Weadock

Not Present: Carol deLemos, Roma Jean Brown, Risa
Greendlinger, Colleen Schaller,
Derrek Schulman, 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 March 11, 2010, Council
on Aging Board Meeting to order.

II. Approve Minutes:

III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes

- A. S. Hughes deferred this portion of the meeting to L. Camberg who submitted an update on how the reaccreditation process is progressing. L. Camberg stated that every committee has had their first meeting, and most committees have met twice, noting that committee work would likely be completed by the end of April. L. Camberg stated that if committee work is done by the end of April, most of the work might be done by late June. L. Camberg stated that Mary Callahan is starting to put the book in order.
- B. COA Board Members continued discussion on the end product of reaccreditation and the work that is involved by the staff in moving this process forward.

IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner:

J. Brenner Gutner responded to N. Silverstein's concerns regarding computer issues mentioned in her Board Report, stating that the issues involve potential viruses and that the firewalls on some computers make it difficult to meet user's needs

while protecting the computer. S. Jackson added that only one computer in the lab is currently working. This computer is being used for the tax counseling services at this time. N. Silverstein stated that she appreciates the work that the IT Department is doing to get the computers up and running. The discussion then changed to the nature of the tax counseling services, the ability to provide tax counseling services with limited resources, the problems associated with the potential of receiving donated computers and access to confidential space.

S. Hughes asked about the vacant positions. J. Brenner Gutner responded that interviews are complete for the Building Monitor position as well as the Outreach position.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that the Volunteer Fair went well; LaTanya Steele and Penny Gordon were instrumental in making this event happen and did a great job.

N. Silverstein responded to M. E. Weadock's question about when the Beverly Foundation would make its decision, stating that decisions will be made in April and then recommendations will go to the Beverly Foundation for award consideration in June. Awards will not be announced until late summer. N. Silverstein also spoke about some of the creative transportation programs that exist to help persons with Alzheimer's.

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

Discussion continues on fundraising towards a senior center. The Friends are working to establish their own website. The Friends have also been in discussion with a local bank regarding the Stephen Palmer Senior Center as well as transportation needs. M. E. Weadock stated that it seems that the Friends have their "ducks in a row" regarding the issue of fundraising and will be ready to respond at the right time.

VI.

Committee Updates:

**1. Senior Center Exploratory Committee -
M. E. Weadock**

M. E. Weadock reported that the Architect has been to the Permanent Public Building Committee (PPBC) meeting twice since being officially chosen. The Architect has reviewed past public meetings held. It appears that the Architect will have a public meeting to discuss some of their findings. M.E. Weadock stated that if priorities are found that might influence the sites that are being studied, this information would come back to the Senior Center Exploratory Committee and then ultimately to the Selectmen.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that the Senior Center Exploratory Committee had a meeting before the PPBC meeting. Part of the discussion surrounded reiterating roles of various committees and individuals involved. J. Brenner Gutner addressed how sites could be taken off the table. It would not be for the Architect or the PPBC to make this decision. Discussion veered towards how the feasibility study is moving along.

2. Springwell - M. E. Weadock

M. E. Weadock reported that managed intake is still occurring because of the budget but that many people are still receiving service. M. E. Weadock spoke briefly about the Governor's 'Embrace Your Future' campaign, noting that it addresses long-term options and reminds younger consumers to think ahead.

D. Goldberg stated that it might be helpful to have the information at all Council on Aging sites.

S. Hughes asked if anyone would be willing to serve on the department's Advisory

Committee. J. Brenner Gutner volunteered that she already attends so will continue to update the Board in the interim.

VII. Visibility Committee

M. E. Weadock asked if the Visibility Committee would do anything at the June Fair. A. Rae responded that she is putting together a photo album.

VIII. Board Member Update:

Governor Patrick is coming to the University of Massachusetts Boston to promote his vision on aging.

Vibrant Living: A UMass Boston Gerontology Celebration is being held Friday, April 23, 2010.

Dan Goldberg stated that the Parkinson Dance Program is being presented in Chicago.

Adjourn (8:10 p.m.)

A motion was made to adjourn the March 11, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting. It was unanimously approved.