

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
August 12,2010
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos,
Colleen Schaller, Andrea Rae,
Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Scott Brightman,
Roma Jean Brown,
NOT PRESENT: Dan Goldberg, James Dolan, Risa Greendlinger
STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson
GUEST: Denise Garlick, Co-Chair, SCEC; Jay Kaplan,
SCEC; Lianne Relich, SCEC; Moe Handel, SCEC;
Larry Cummings, SCEC; Marianne Cooley, SCEC
CONVENE: 6:30 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 6:35 p.m. - Susanne Hughes**
Susanne Hughes, Chair, called the August 12, 2010, Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to approve the July 15, 2010, Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
Seconded by M.E. Weadock. Unanimously approved.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
S. Hughes reported that the reaccreditation process is nearing completion. The COA Board talked about creating a strategic plan (final phase of reaccreditation to dovetail with creating a strategic plan)and decided to meet on October 7, 2010, at 6 p.m. An email will be sent regarding this date.
- IV. Senior Center Exploratory Committee (SCEC): Site Evaluation**
D. Garlick recapped the vote that took place at the SCEC meeting on August 4th, which involved taking the Stephen Palmer and Wingate sites off the list of potential Senior Center locations. D. Garlick presented an analysis on the remaining potential site locations for review by the COA Board.
D. Garlick reported that the MBTA is interested in doing a land swap, but noted that the swap might not

allow for construction of a 20,000 square foot building without an override. D. Garlick summarized the details of the possible land swap.

D. Garlick also noted that three of the five sites could be eligible for CPA funding: Ridge Hill, Rosemary Hill, and Emery Grover. Discussion continued with a site-by-site evaluation on the strengths and limitations of Ridge Hill, Rosemary Hill, Emery Grover, Greene's Field and the Heights MBTA Commuter Lot. Board Member considerations also included construction cost as well as override concerns. D. Garlick noted that the Town's budget process is starting and that the Town's pro forma would present more information on funding.

COA Board Members expressed that the majority of Senior Center participants are vibrant, healthy, older adults who are able to travel on their own to the Senior Center, but transportation will always be an issue for the seniors who are not able to travel on their own. COA Board Members also expressed that expansion capability and parking are important components, noting that a new location for the Senior Center must be able to accommodate the needs of seniors now and for the next fifty years. Members also pointed out that the current population of seniors in Needham is about 7000.

S. Hughes stated that she did not want to lose sight of the fact that private funding is a strong possibility to help with the cost.

C. deLemos pointed out that some programming is currently done off site, which has mitigated some of the present parking demand, and yet we still have issues at the current Senior Center location with parking limitations.

With regards to the Emery Grover discussion, and as a point of clarification, M. Cooley emphasized that Emery Grover is not earmarked for renovations by the School Department. M. Cooley also emphasized that the building could potentially be an asset to the Town if the building was gutted and renovated for use by some group in Town.

D. Garlick responded to S. Hughes' question on projection of CPA funding, and outlined cost differential of CPA funding versus the cost of an override to fund potential sites. D. Garlick stated that she would ask the Town Manager to send information to the SCEC and COA Board. Discussion continued on the cost to build a green building.

A. Rae thanked the SCEC for their long hours, J. Brenner Gutner for attending meetings beyond her scheduled day and the work of Sherry Jackson.

D. Garlick stated that there is a lot of discussion yet to be had because no site is without limitations. D. Garlick stated that the Board of Selectmen are meeting on August 17th and the Architect will be making their presentation on Emery Grover to them. The Board of Selectmen will be meeting on September 21 and 28. The Special Town Meeting warrant will be included on their agenda. The SCEC will ask for a place holder Article for the November Special Town Meeting, so that the work can continue. The SCEC will hold a public hearing on September 7, 2010.

V. Updates:

- **SCEC Meeting Dates:**
Proposed dates-August 18, 2010; September 16th, 20th or 22nd.
- **Finance Committee Meeting:**
August 23, 2010. Every meeting will likely include the Senior Center on their agenda.
- **Next Council on Aging Board meeting:**
September 16, 2010.

Adjourn (8:20 p.m.)

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the August 12, 2010, Council on Aging Board Meeting. It was unanimously approved.

