

Needham Council on Aging
December 7, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Susanne Hughes, Scott Brightman, Carol deLemos, Colleen Schaller,
Dan Goldberg, Andrea Rae, Mary Elizabeth Weadock

Staff: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Maureen Doherty

Not Present: James Dolan, Risa Greendlinger, Roma Jean Brown

Convene: 6:30 p.m. – Stephen Palmer Senior Center

Discussion:

I. Call to Order – 6:30 p.m. – Susanne Hughes

Susanne Hughes, Chair, called the December 7, 2010 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order. The meeting time was switched from the usual 2nd Thursday to this date at the request of the Chair at the last COA Board meeting. This is not a permanent switch.

II. Approve Minutes:

Motion by Dan Goldberg and seconded by Colleen to approve the minutes of the October Special COA Board meeting of October 12, 2010. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Colleen Schaller and seconded by Dan Goldberg to approve the minutes of the regular October 14, 2010 COA Board meeting. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Mary Elizabeth Weadock and seconded by Colleen Schaller to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2010 COA Board meeting. Unanimously approved.

III. Maureen Doherty, Trip Coordinator for the Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc., was introduced to the Board by Susanne Hughes. Maureen is new to this position and she reported on trips that she has been involved with since the fall. These include a tour of Boston's North End, a Turkey Train trip to Lake Winnepesaukee, a two-night overnight trip to the White Mountains and a visit to the Three Swinging Tenors in Westborough.

The Police Union has agreed to give an annual donation to support the senior trips.

The COA Board discussed the cost and variety of trips. Maureen is working with participants and others to determine what outings seniors in Needham would like to have as part of the senior trips program.

IV. Chairperson's Report: - S. Hughes

- A. Helen Hicks sent a thank you note to the COA Board for the gift sent to her on behalf of her many years of service to the Council on Aging Board.
- B. Eilene Kleiman has been appointed by the Board of Selectmen as a new COA Board member. Eilene had a conflict for this evening but will be joining the Board in January.
- C. There is a need for two representatives to sit on the Permanent Public Building Committee (PPBC) to represent the Council on Aging in the discussions around a new Senior Center. The Chair suggested that Jamie Brenner Gutner, as the Executive Director of the Council on Aging, should be one representative as she can best represent the needs of a Senior Center to the PPBC.

The COA Board discussed another representative to be a member of the PPBC as discussions for a new Senior Center progress. The Board discussed in particular the three COA Board members who were part of the Senior Center Exploratory Committee as excellent candidates. The Board agreed that Colleen Schaller would represent the needs of the COA Board well on the PPBC. The final selection and appointment will be done by the Board of Selectmen.

Mary Elizabeth Weadock made a motion, seconded by Scott Brightman, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Jamie Brenner Gutner and Colleen Schaller be appointed as the two representatives of the Council on Aging to the PPBC. This motion received unanimous approval. The Chair will forward this information to Denise Garlick, Selectman.

The Board agreed that COA Board Members should attend as many PPBC meetings as possible in the coming months. It is critical for the PPBC to move forward so that an RFP will get out in a timely fashion.

D. The Chair will speak with Nina Silverstein and Derrek Shulman to determine their time frame for some informal event with the COA Board to thank them for their many years of service to the Board.

E. Mary Elizabeth brought up the start time of COA Board meetings. In order to continue to attract residents who might be able to serve on the Board, it was felt that starting meetings at 6:30 was too early. Mary Elizabeth made a motion to return the COA Board meeting start time back to 7:00. The motion was seconded by Colleen Schaller and was voted upon unanimously. The meeting on January 13 will begin at 7:00 p.m.

V. Executive Director – J. Brenner Gutner

A. Board members commented that the ED's report was thorough and interesting in summarizing much of the wonderful work that goes on day to day at the Senior Center. The COA Board agrees that many residents of Needham do not know of the many programs and ways that the COA and the Senior Center touch such a large and varied number of individuals, including younger family members, in any given month.

B. The van driver position has been filled and Bob Papetti has been hired. Cliff will stay on to assist in orienting Bob to his new responsibilities. Two candidates have been interviewed for the Outreach position.

C. Jamie has completed the work she needed to do to submit for a grant for Mobility Assistance.

D. My Senior Center assessment is ongoing. Jamie is interviewing staff to get their input and then will ask the Board for assistance.

VI. Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report

The Friends had a meeting with some Needham residents who would be helpful with support and ideas on fundraising for a new Senior Center. The Friends have agreed to sponsor a series of small groups to educate residents about a Senior Center.

The Friends will be gearing up to begin a fundraising campaign in early 2011.

VII. Visibility Committee

Andrea is stepping down as the Chair of the Visibility Committee. Other Board members will need to participate in this committee as it will be critical in the months ahead as the new Senior Center progresses.

VIII. Re-Accreditation Committee

This effort is nearly complete. When all of the material is together then the next step is to invite re-accreditation officials to review the material and to visit the Council on Aging for the purpose of renewing the Needham COA accreditation. Lois Camberg has done an excellent job spearheading this effort and she has received much support from COA Board members, COA staff and volunteers.

IX. Advisory Committee will meet in January, 2011.

Rachel Mahar was nominated as a new member of this committee. Andrea Rae made a motion to accept the nomination and it was seconded by Colleen Schaller. Unanimous approval.

X. Adjournment (8:00 p.m.)

A motion was made by Andrea Rae for the Board to adjourn the December 7, 2010 Council on Aging Board meeting. It was seconded by Carol deLemos and unanimously approved.