

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
May 12, 2011
MINUTES

PRESENT: **Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos,**
 Colleen Schaller, Andrea Rae,
 Scott Brightman, Risa Greendlinger,
 Roma Jean Brown, Eilene Kleiman,
 Lianne Relich

NOT PRESENT: **Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Dan Goldberg**

STAFF: **Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson,**

GUEST: **Lee Newman, Madeline Colety**

CONVENE: **7:00 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center**

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 7:00 p.m. - Susanne Hughes**
Susanne Hughes, Chair, called the May 12, 2011 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
Risa Greendlinger made a motion that the Board vote to approve the April 14, 2011 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
Colleen Schaller seconded the motion. The motion carried: 8 affirmative, 1 abstention.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
S. Hughes reported that she has contacted Jerry Wassermann, Vice-Chair, Board of Selectman regarding a potential candidate who is interested in serving on the COA Board. Discussion briefly continued on other potential candidates.
- S. Hughes expressed that the Permanent Public Building Committee (PPBC) has been very good about having COA discussion items early on its agenda. The board discussed whether or not it would be feasible to ask the PPBC to continue this practice, which would allow more seniors to attend the PPBC meetings. After a general discussion, the consensus was that a COA Board member would touch base with George Kent regarding this request. A brief discussion continued on the appreciation for the layout of the PPBC meetings.

IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

The COA Board expressed their appreciation for the Executive Director report. A general discussion ensued on the Case Vignette and J. Brenner Gutner's visit to Olin College to present Council on Aging services and programs to students participating in Olin's, Engineering for Humanity course.

S. Hughes commended Maureen Doherty for the great job she is doing in organizing trips. A general discussion ensued regarding the affordability of trips. The COA Board expressed their appreciation for the excellent programming and hard work of the staff.

A General discussion ensued on the importance of space and how important 20,000sq ft will be to building a new Senior Center. J. Brenner Gutner mentioned again that the architects have been wonderful to work with and that she will continue to meet with them.

VI. Update from 40B Committee

The COA Board welcomed Lee Newman, Director of Planning & Community Development and Madeline Colety, Housing Consultant. Lee Newman summarized the charge of the 40B Working Group: to assist in the development of Chapter 40B Review Guidelines for developers looking to build affordable housing in Needham. L. Newman mentioned that the 40B Working Group has been meeting with town boards to get a sense of what Needham's guidelines could include. The guidelines would inform developers about Needham's affordable housing concerns and priorities.

The COA Board expressed concern for the scale of some 40B projects, which are often built on lots that create a dense housing development. The COA Board also expressed that for persons wanting to age in Needham, single story units would be more appealing as well as handicap accessible units. There was a general consensus among the COA Board for integration with diverse housing that meets the needs of seniors as well as multigenerational housing with a diverse economic community. The COA

Board expressed that it is a good idea to proactively work with developers.

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

R. J. Brown reported the Friends' Annual Business Meeting would be, Monday July 18, 2011 at 2pm. The agenda will include design information for the Senior Center. R. J. Brown also reported that the website is up and running.

VIII. Committee Updates

1. Visibility Committee - A. Rae

S. Brightman asked if the COA Board is working on a PowerPoint presentation that would inform the community on services the Senior Center provides. S. Brightman stated that he would be willing to help put something together. A. Rae pointed out that it is difficult to duplicate, in the form of a presentation, the services the Senior Center provides without breaching confidentiality. S. Jackson suggested putting together a slide show with bullets on what the Senior Center does.

C. de Lemos said that our Fundraising consultants have suggested we arrange for small group discussions about what the Senior Center does and have some material to give them to take home with them. They were not too much in favor of a power point presentation. If we had a power point presentation it should be a maximum of 11 minutes long.

2. Springwell - M. E. Weadock

No report.

VI. Board Member Updates

L. Relich made a motion to adjourn the May 12, 2011 COA Board meeting. C. Schaller seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.