

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
September 8, 2011
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos,
Colleen Schaller, Andrea Rae, Mary Elizabeth
Weadock, Eilene Kleiman, Lianne Relich,
NOT PRESENT: Scott Brightman, Roma Jean Brown,
Dan Goldberg
STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson,
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 September 8, 2011 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
Andrea Rae made a motion that the Board vote to approve the June 9, 2011 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
Colleen Schaller seconded the motion.
The motion carried.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
S. Hughes deferred her report until a brief discussion from the COA, Nominating Committee.
M. E. Weadock summarized the Nominating Committee's deliberations and reported its recommendation.
- C. Schaller made a motion to nominate S. Hughes as Chairwoman and C. deLemos as Vice Chairwoman.**
R. J. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.
- S. Hughes addressed the issue of Board vacancies noting that the COA By-laws state that Board membership not exceed 12 members. M. E. Weadock summarized the procedures that would be involved if the COA Board was to request a change. A general discussion ensued. It was the general consensus of the COA Board to keep its membership up to 12 members.

S. Hughes reported briefly on the letter that she and C. deLemos wrote to the Editor of the Needham Times in support of the Board of Selectmen's unanimous decision to fund the construction of a new Senior Center within the debt levy rather than from an override.

S. Hughes reported briefly on the Finance Committee meeting she attended in which the discussion was focused on funding of a new Senior Center. COA Board members who also attended expressed their thoughts. A general discussion ensued on the warrant process and upcoming next steps.

S. Hughes spoke briefly about the October 2011 Harvest Fair. S. Hughes stated that Board members should be present to answer questions on the Senior Center. S. Hughes will send out an email asking for sign ups. A general discussion ensued on additional participants.

S. Jackson stated that this year the Willgoose Lecture is scheduled for November. The topic will relate to Cancer and how people respond when some one has this disease. S. Jackson also stated that the Diversity Month Program would include a presentation on gay, lesbian and transgender issues.

IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

S. Hughes noted that the Executive Director's report is an amazing document. A general discussion ensued on the new van being awarded through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Grant as well as the collaboration with the Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. J. Brenner Gutner pointed out that the report is an indicator of how hard the staff works and how much they accomplish.

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

R. J. Brown reported on the Ice Cream Social that the Friends hosted for the Annual Meeting. J. Brenner Gutner noted that the event was very well done and well attended.

VI. Committee Updates

Friends Steering Committee - M. E. Weadock,

C.Schaller, and C. deLemos

Working with the Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. an informational flyer has been developed to utilize as an educational handout when appropriate. The handout will also be sent to all Town Meeting Members. C. deLemos reported on the progress of obtaining donors, media contacts, creating a program for the Needham Cable Channel, and a fundraiser letter. C. deLemos reported on previous donations received. M. E. Weadock pointed out that the donations are not for the construction of the building. A general discussion ensued on the draft fundraising handout.

Action Plan Sub-Committee - E. Kleiman, L. Relich and C. deLemos

A. Rae noted that the Action Plan is a guide not a mandate. Hughes added that the reaccreditation site visit is scheduled for November 15, 2011. The itinerary for the visit will be shared as soon as we receive it. J. Brenner Gutner will work with the Committee who will report periodically to the entire Board as to the proposed Action Plan suggested by the Reaccreditation Committees.

Visibility Committee - A. Rae

No Report

Springwell - M. E. Weadock

No Report

VII. Board Member Updates

A. Rae spoke briefly about the vitality of older adults referring to an experience she and her husband observed during their recent trip. .

C. deLemos reported that Medicare now seems to be charging fees for visits to certain physicians. J. Brenner Gutner suggested that Dorene Nemeth could help C. deLemos with this concern.

A. Rae made a motion to adjourn the September 8, 2011 COA Board meeting. E. Kleiman seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.