

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
October 13, 2011
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos,
Colleen Schaller, Andrea Rae,
Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Lianne Relich,
Scott Brightman, Roma Jean Brown,
Dan Goldberg

NOT PRESENT: Eilene Kleiman, Jamie Brenner Gutner

STAFF: Sherry Jackson

CONVENE: 7:05 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 7::05 p.m. - Susanne Hughes**
Susanne Hughes, Chair, called the October 13, 2011 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
Colleen Schaller made a motion that the Board vote to approve the September 8, 2011 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
Andrea Rae seconded the motion.
The motion carried.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
S. Hughes presented a draft letter developed by the Friends of the Needham Elderly Fundraising Steering Committee for the Board's consideration. Once approved the letter will be mailed to Town Meeting Members, on behalf of the Council on Aging and the Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. (FONE) to ask for support of the Article in the Warrant authorizing funds to build a new Senior Center in Needham. S. Hughes noted that the Friends and the Fundraising Steering Committee felt that Town Meeting Members should receive a copy of the letter and the rendering of the proposed new Senior Center. A general discussion ensued.
- A. Rae made a motion to approve the letter to Town Meeting Members, to be included in an informational packet to Town Meeting Members. R. J. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.**

S. Hughes led the Board in a discussion on various department and committee meetings throughout Town and invited the board members to share an update on the meetings they have attended. C. Schaller shared an update on the Finance Committee Meeting she attended in which a vote was taken regarding the potential funding of a new Senior Center and on the discussion that took place on this vote. C. Schaller stated that the vote to fund a new Senior Center was moved by John Connelly, seconded and tied 4-4. After discussion with Dave Davison, a second motion was made stating "Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting" and passed unanimously. C. Schaller also reported that a motion was made to make a recommendation at Town Meeting to support construction of a Senior Center and that this motion carried. A general discussion ensued.

L. Relich reported on efforts to organize a Phone-a-thon campaign to Town Meeting Members. L. Relich reported that Louise Condon is donating her office and phones for this event. This will take place on November 1st and 2nd, from 6:45-8:45 at Condon Realty. A general discussion ensued as well as some discussion on organizing who will call who.

C. deLemos reported on her conversation with J. Brenner Gutner in which J. Brenner Gutner stated that Matt Borrelli was planning to have another vote take place at the Finance Committee meeting on October 19, 2011. COA Board members were encouraged to attend this meeting. The conversations veered toward the recent cost report and some of the items slated for fund raising efforts.

S. Hughes thanked everyone who participated in this year's Harvest Fair. S. Hughes stated that a good size canopy was erected, the rendition was displayed and handouts were given.

IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

The COA Board expressed appreciation for the Executive Director's report. C. deLemos asked S. Jackson if feedback was received on the depression screening held by the Riverside Community Care. S. Jackson responded that the Riverside

Community Care representatives were concerned with making people comfortable as they were coming to screening site locations. S. Hughes added that it is her experience that there is a real stigma among the elderly to talk about their mental health versus the younger people who are more inclined to talk about their mental health. S. Jackson suggested developing a survey to reach out to the elderly, adding that the survey could go out with the traveling meals.

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

R. J. Brown reported that the FRIENDS would participate in the Senior Center fundraising campaign. R. J. Brown also reported that although the FRIENDS do not have a new person to coordinate and organize trips, there is a promising candidate currently being considered. R. J. Brown reported on the upcoming trip. Discussion veered to Board contributions to the Needham Senior Center Fundraising Campaign, encouraging 100% participation.

VI. Committee Updates

**Friends Fundraising Steering Committee -
M. E. Weadock, C. Schaller, and C. deLemos**

A brief discussion took place earlier in the meeting.

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

E. Kleiman is working with J. Brenner Gutner to present a report at the November COA Board meeting.

Visibility Committee - A. Rae

No Report

Springwell - M. E. Weadock

M. E. Weadock reported that she attended a one-day Mass Home Care conference. M. E. Weadock reported that the strategic health initiative, Care Transitions Intervention (CTI) is coming along slowly. M. E. Weadock recapped this initiative. M. E. Weadock shared that she is a companion for a 93 year old women, who had been to

the hospital three times in three weeks and no one from the hospital administration had a conversation with her regarding discharge.

VII. Board Member Updates

S. Jackson responded to Board member's inquiry on the Willgoose Lecture, by stating that she is still working on getting a lecturer. S. Jackson stated that she has contacted BID Needham and Wellesley Cancer Treatment Center.

S. Hughes stated that a working group/committee should be convened to discuss the naming of the new Senior Center. C. deLemos pointed out that the Board of Selectmen has the final say on the name. L. Relich added that one of the Selectmen has expressed an interest on being on the committee.

A. Rae made a motion to adjourn the October 13, 2011 COA Board meeting. R. J. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.