

Needham Council on Aging

December 8, 2011

Minutes

Present: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Roma Jean Brown, Dan Goldberg, Andrea Rae, Lianne Relich.

Staff: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson, Penny Gordon

DISCUSSION:

I: Call to Order – 7:00pm - Suzanne Hughes

Suzanne Hughes, Chair, called the December 8, 2011 Council on Aging Meeting to order

II: Approve Minutes:

Minutes were amended to reflect one night, not two, of phone bank calling that took place prior to The November Town Meeting. Roma Jean Brown made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Dan Goldberg seconded. The motion carried.

III: Penny Gordon, the Volunteer Transportation Coordinator addressed the Board. She discussed volunteer opportunities at the Center and the importance of Volunteerism in Needham. She gave each Board member a small bag of items to symbolize the many aspects of Volunteering.

IV: Chairperson's Report:

Suzanne Hughes discussed her recent activities after the funding approval from the November Town Meeting. This included letters of thanks to the Needham Times, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and Permanent Public Building Committee. Discussion then followed regarding the formulation of a Committee to select a proposed name for the new Senior Center.

V: Executive Director's Report:

The Dorothea Willgoose lecture took place November 17. A general discussion followed regarding the history and purpose of the program. It was agreed that the lecture should continue to take place once a year featuring a health topic. With the advent of the new Senior Center it was proposed that the event might take place in the evening, thus drawing more active participants

The SHINE Program and possible changes in funding was addressed. The Board discussed the importance of the SHINE program throughout the Community and possible ways to support the continuation of this important program despite funding cutbacks if they occur.

The Fall Prevention Group was discussed. This popular program was well attended.

VI: Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report – Roma Jean Brown

A fundraising mailing for the new Senior Center has been sent and is bringing in a positive response. A thank you note for all donations will be promptly sent. The rendering of the new Senior Center on the envelope was well received.

The sale of See's Candy as a fundraiser will be limited to the winter holidays with a possibility of promoting it again in the spring.

The Friends are considering future trip ventures with the Wellesley Council on Aging. Some trips in the past have been cancelled because of failure to fill the bus.

VII: Springwell Report:

Springwell will be moving their main offices in the fall due to lack of space. The local area is being surveyed and the possibility exists that they might move to Waltham. Mary Elizabeth Weadock will keep the Board informed moving forward.

VIII: Various Committee Reports:

The **Friends** reported that there will be a name change for their Steering Committee. The Committee is in the active mode of fundraising.

The **Action Plan Committee** will hope to have an update in January.

The **Visibility Committee** did not have an update.

The COA Board entered into a discussion regarding future directions and possible projects that might help to support the department. There was discussion that the Board could possibly help with the program evaluations. It was agreed that there are exciting new opportunities in the future, now that the new Senior Center is moving forward.

Andrea Rae made a motion to adjourn the December 8, 2011 COA Board Meeting. Roma Jean Brown seconded the motion. The Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Lianne Relich