

**NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**January 12, 2012**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Andrea Rae,  
Eilene Kleiman, Colleen Schaller,  
Scott Brightman, Dan Goldberg

**NOT PRESENT:** Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Lianne Relich,  
Roma Jean Brown

**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 January 12, 2012 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**  
Eilene Kleiman made a motion that the Board vote to approve the December 8, 2011 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.  
Carol deLemos seconded the motion.  
The motion carried with 4 affirmative votes and 3 abstentions.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**  
S. Hughes recapped the business of filling the two vacant COA Board seats. S. Hughes encouraged COA Board members to forward names of potential candidates to either herself or J. Brenner Gutner. A general discussion ensued on potential candidates.
- S. Hughes encouraged the COA Board to continue the work of convening a committee to name the New Senior Center. The composition of the committee was discussed. S. Hughes noted that D. Goldberg and R. J. Brown have expressed an interest in serving on this committee. S. Hughes pointed out that the Board of Selectmen would ultimately choose the name. A general discussion ensued on what other senior centers have done to name their new facilities. S. Hughes noted that the groundbreaking would take place in the next couple of months.

**IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner**

The COA Board remarked on the thoroughness of the Executive Director's report. A. Rae commented on how interesting the VNA Program is. J. Brenner Gutner responded that the program conducts multifactorial assessments and screenings, identifies risk factors, provides education and offers targeted intervention strategies to reduce the risk of falling.

S. Hughes added that for seniors a fall can greatly impact their ability to function independently after a fall. A general discussion ensued on similar programs.

S. Hughes shared information on the Visions of Independence Program, run by Founder and Managing Director Elliot Feldman. S. Hughes reported on how the program supports seniors living independently.

S. Hughes asked for more clarification on the SHINE Report.

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

No Report.

**VI. Committee Updates**

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

The Friends Fundraising Steering Committee continues fundraising efforts focusing on developing a list of potential donors. Additional activities include planning for a spring gala, which is tentatively scheduled for either April 27 or April 28, 2012. A committee will be formed to facilitate the planning of this event.

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

E. Kleiman presented the Board with a copy of the Reaccreditation COA Action Plan. E. Kleiman pointed out proposed actions, completed actions and areas where the COA Board could volunteer to help. A general discussion ensued.

J. Brenner Gutner pointed out that during the wrap-up meeting for reaccreditation it was noted by the Reviewer that, although the COA has a very thorough Action Plan, the COA should be mindful that the process of moving is huge and multifaceted. Therefore her suggestion was to be cautious of not taking on too much during this period.

S. Hughes pointed out that the Board would continue to review the Action Plan at their next meeting.

**Visibility Committee**

No Report

**Springwell - M. E. Weadock**

No Report

**VII. Board Member Updates**

S. Brightman stated that at a meeting he attended with State Senator Scott Brown, the Senator shared his concerns for cuts to various programs that might affect older adults and others.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that next month, Dorene Nemeth, SHINE Director, will present information on the SHINE Program and potential state level cuts.

E. Kleiman expressed that she was pleased to see a link to the Senior Compass in the Temple Aliyah's electronic newsletter.

**D. Goldberg made a motion to adjourn the January 12, 2012 COA Board meeting. A. Rae seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.**