

# **NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING**

**February 9, 2012**

## **MINUTES**

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

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

**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 February 9, 2012 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

#### **II. Approve Minutes:**

Andrea Rae made a motion that the Board vote to approve the January 12, 2012 Council on Aging Board Minutes as amended.

Colleen Schaller seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **III. Guest Presentation: Dorene Nemeth, Director of the MetroWest SHINE Program**

presented an overview of the SHINE program. Open enrollment was completed and close to 3100 individuals were assisted in this process. MetroWest is the leader in the State for the number of individuals who received SHINE help during this period. Each year the numbers grow because those who are satisfied the first time are repeat customers each year and new individuals sign up for assistance as well.

Each year new counselors are added and trained and this year we have four new members. We need to ensure that the region has an appropriate placement for each counselor as well as the ability to supply appropriate supervision. Our program is reaching capacity.

The training is a process of 6 weeks and there are two training sessions each week. It is a combination of online and classroom training. Staff also are recertified each year and they must pass an online exam in order to continue as counselors.

SHINE staff have reduced some of their hours due to reduced funding this year. Funding for SHINE is likely secure through FY 13 but the future is unclear. Presently, there is no additional money in the Governor's budget for SHINE.

#### **IV. Chairperson's Report – S. Hughes**

S. Hughes reported on the formation of a Naming Committee. Dan Goldberg is chairing this pro tem committee. It will likely meet two times once in February and once in March. The committee will report on suggestions for a name for the Senior Center. Any suggestions will be shared with the Board of Selectmen who are responsible for the ultimate naming of the Senior Center.

Jamie Brenner Gutner updated the Board on recent activity of the PPBC (Permanent Public Building Committee). A number of qualified bidders have been identified.

#### **V. Executive Director's Report**

The Council on Aging has heard verbally that it passed all of the criteria for reaccreditation and a formal notification will be coming soon.

The Board again expressed its appreciation for the work and activities that occur on a daily basis at the Council on Aging. In spite of limited space and a small staff, the programs and help provided to seniors and their families continues to impress.

A discussion ensued about Elder Protective Services...abuse, neglect, self-neglect and financial exploitation. These protections are available to seniors in Needham as well as other towns. The program is run through Springwell via contract with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The Board expressed interest in having a presentation from Springwell on the services that are provided to seniors through that agency and the relationship between the Council on Aging and Springwell.

#### **VI. Friends of the Needham Elderly**

No report. The Gala planned to support the fundraising for the new Senior Center has been moved to the fall.

## **VII. Committee Updates**

Action Plan Committee: Eilene Kleiman went over the Planning Document that describes goals and objectives for the COA based on the work done for reaccreditation. Eilene pointed out proposed actions, completed actions and areas where COA Board members can assist and be helpful in achieving the stated goal. This document will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to note progress toward COA goals.

Jamie pointed out that not all goals will be completed immediately as there is considerable work that needs to be done relative to the building a new Senior Center and preparing to move in another year.

**Dan Goldberg made a motion to adjourn the February 9, 2012 COA Board meeting. Eilene Kleiman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**