

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

**PRESENT:** Susanne Hughes, Carol de Lemos,  
Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Eilene Kleiman,  
Colleen Schaller, Lianne Relich, Andrea Rae,  
Roma Jean Brown

**NOT PRESENT:** Scott Brightman, Dan Goldberg

**STAFF:** Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson

**Guest:** Legislative Representative, Denise Garlick

**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 April 12, 2012 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**  
Eilene Kleiman made a motion that the Board vote to approve the March 8, 2012 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.  
Colleen Schaller seconded the motion.  
The motion carried with 6 affirmative votes and 2 abstentions.
- III. Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**  
S. Hughes reported on the House Ways and Means (HWM) FY13 budget proposal relative to local Councils on Aging, who will expect cuts in the amount of 2.4% and sets the Formula Grant back \$6/elder/year.  
S. Hughes reported that funding for Congregate Housing was reduced 6.3%. S. Hughes noted that the HWM FY13 budget proposal includes an increase of 3.3% to the Enhanced Community Options Program (ECOP) and an increase of 6.2% to the Protective Services, while home care and case management programs remain level funded.
- S. Hughes reported that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Senior Center would be Thursday, May 3, 2012
- S. Hughes reported that M.E. Weadock attended the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) awards

presentation and received the Reaccreditation Plaque on behalf of the Needham Senior Center. M.E. Weadock spoke about the luncheon and stated that the Stephen Palmer Senior Center is the 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Center Nationally to receive accreditation three times.

S. Hughes reported that the Needham Business Association (NBA) 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Street Fair will take place on Saturday, June 2, 2012, on the Town Common. A general discussion took place on whether or not the COA would participate in the event. J. Brenner Gutner will let the NBA know that the COA will be participating. Discussion continued on developing the overall message of the Needham Council on Aging.

S. Hughes stated that the COA Board needs to appoint a nominating committee that will create a proposed slate of officers to be voted on in June. R. J. Brown and A. Rae volunteered to be on the committee.

S. Hughes reported that Susan Temper, Executive Director at Springwell would speak at next month's COA board meeting. Ms. Temper will speak about what Springwell does and its relationship to the Councils on Aging. A. Rae suggested that we consider Springwell presenting at the next Willgoose Lecture event.

S. Hughes shared that Springwell has a staff person working two days a week at the Beth Israel Deaconess (BID) Needham Hospital who helps identify and coordinate long-term care services and supports for Springwell consumers. S. Jackson asked if Springwell has an organizational chart. S. Hughes responded that she would make sure S. Jackson receives copies of Springwell's organizational chart.

**IV. Invited Guest - Representative, Denise Garlick**

Representative Garlick reported that the MBTA is proposing elimination of weekend commuter rail service in Needham, but that the #59 bus service has been preserved. Representative Garlick added that she has learned a lot about the ridership and the number of people riding the #59 bus as well as the route that brings these riders key locations in

Needham such as BID-Needham, Avery Crossing, and Briarwood.

Representative Garlick reported on her advocacy for a long-term transportation plan as well the involvement of the MBTA Caucus and their efforts to advocate for lowering fair increases proposed by the MBTA. Representative Garlick added that she and Senators Michael Rush and Richard Ross have formed a coalition and have met with the Secretary of Transportation to advocate for the continuance of the Saturday commuter rail service.

A. Rae asked if the debt load is the biggest problem of the MBTA. Representative Garlick summarized the mitigating process that led to their debt, adding that legislative changes brought about spending changes that fell apart during the economic downturn.

Representative Garlick stated that she is a member of the Joint Committee on Education, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and Joint Committee on Public Health. Representative Garlick expressed that she would like to meet with the COA Board on a regular bases.

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

The COA Board expressed that the Executive Director's report is a fabulous report.

S. Hughes asked for clarification on the process for funding the Senior Corp Program. J. Brenner Gutner explained that Town Meeting votes on the funding yearly.

S. Hughes asked about the transportation numbers. J. Brenner Gutner responded that there seems to be some consistency year to year but when this year's statistics are compiled for the State Annual Report we will clarify how this year compares.

**VI. Springwell - M.E. Weadock**

M.E. Weadock reported that Springwell's big news is its coalition with hospitals, Susan Temper's retirement, and attending the NCOA (National Association of Councils on Aging) Conference.

M. W. Weadock added that there is a lot of talk about forming coalitions and how to begin. M.E. Weadock added that Springwell is right on track with this issue.

**VII. Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report**  
No Report

**VIII. Committee Updates**

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

The Friend's Fundraising Steering Committee had no report. Some committee members will meet with Dave Davison, Director of Finance, and Steven Popper, Director of Design and Construction, on April 26 to review some budget issues.

**Naming Committee - D. Goldberg, R. J. Brown, S. Jackson, Jon Mattleman, and Stephen Cadigan**

S. Jackson reported that this committee has met twice. The discussion has been centered on creating a name for the new Center. The Naming Committee thought that the word "Needham" should be included in the name and two members are opposed to the word "senior" in the name. The committee submitted the following recommendations: Needham Center at the Heights, Needham Life Center, and Needham Center for Enhanced Living. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the recommendations. The COA Board will discuss recommendations further at its next meeting.

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

No Report

**Visibility Committee -**

Although no formal report was given a general discussion ensued regarding the groundbreaking ceremony. Lianne Relich volunteered to help with the groundbreaking ceremony.

## **VI. Board Member Updates**

A. Rae spoke about her trip to New Zealand. A. Rae summarized issues affecting elders in New Zealand. A. Rae pointed out that some New Zealand continuing care housing organizations are modeling their developments after those built in the United States.

She further stated that Meals on Wheels are only provided as a result of a hospital stay and that everywhere she went she saw pamphlets on elder abuse. Also, at the time of the earthquake it seems that residents in the nursing homes seemed to meet the emergency well but many died after the event was over.

C. Schaller announced that Carol deLemos is the recipient of the Richard Patton Melick Foundation Award this year.

**E. Kleiman made a motion to adjourn the April 12, 2012 COA Board meeting. R. J. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.**