

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
October 11, 2012
MINUTES

PRESENT: Carol deLemos, Colleen Schaller,
Scott Brightman, Ed Cosgrove,
Phyllis Fanger, Dan Goldberg, Andrea Rae,
Lianne Relich, Mary Elizabeth Weadock

NOT PRESENT: Roma Jean Brown, Susanne Hughes,
Eilene Kleiman

STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner

GUEST: Dorene Nemeth, SHINE Director, Metrowest
Region

CONVENE: 6:45 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 6:45 p.m. - Carol deLemos**
Carol deLemos, Co-Chair, called the October 11, 2012 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
D. Goldberg made a motion that the Board vote to approve the September 13, 2012 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended.
L. Relich seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimous vote.
- III. Chairperson's Report - C. deLemos & C. Schaller**
No Report
- IV. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner**
COA Board members expressed their appreciation for a very informative Executive Director's report.
J. Brenner Gutner gave a brief overview on the Sages & Seekers program at the request of a new COA Board member. J. Brenner Gutner also gave a brief update on the MCOA (Massachusetts Councils on Aging) Conference she attended on October 3, 2012, at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel, Falmouth, MA.
- V. SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders) Overview**
Dorene Nemeth presented an overview on the MetroWest SHINE program. Ms. Nemeth stated the MetroWest SHINE program covers 22 cities and towns, and had over

6,300 client contacts in FY12. Ms. Nemeth stated that Open Enrollment is from October 15th through December 7th. Ms. Nemeth added that Needham has three counselors and that during open enrollment counselors work more hours to accommodate this busy period. Ms. Nemeth spoke about programs and services, one in particular the Health Benefits University (HBU) program, explaining that this program is for professionals and teaches them the ins and outs of the Medicare system, prescription drug coverage and public benefit programs so they can assist clients and loved ones. Ms. Nemeth stated that SHINE would hold an HBU on October 26 at the Callahan Senior Center in Framingham. Conversation veered towards navigating the Medicare Plan Finder.

J. Brenner Gutner emphasized the importance of the SHINE program to residents and families throughout the State. In a recent communication to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs it was stated that in each of the last 5 years, SHINE counselors have assisted between 50,000-60,000 Medicare beneficiaries and that in 2011 66% of folks providing counseling are volunteers.

Ms. Nemeth concluded her presentation by reminding the COA Board that anyone who needs assistance for Medicare counseling can call The Stephen Palmer Senior Center for an appointment.

VI. Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report

J. Brenner Gutner presented the Friends of the Needham Elderly Report. J. Brenner Gutner reported that at the most recent FONE (Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc.) meeting discussion continued about developing a strategy for how to meet their general budget goals. J. Brenner Gutner added that the FONE continue to fund the *Compass* and would like to continue to assist with funding other needed services such as the running of the Transportation Program.

VII. Springwell Report - M. E. Weadock

M. E. Weadock reported that Springwell moved to an office building in Waltham that is bright and cheery. M. E. Weadock reported that Springwell is

still interviewing for an Executive Director position at Springwell and has received over 200 applications. M. E. Weadock added that first interviews are happening now but that Springwell continues to receive applications. M. E. Weadock noted that Ruth Beckerman-Rodau has stepped in and is fabulous.

VIII. Committee Reports

Senior Center Update - C. deLemos & C. Schaller

C. Schaller reported that construction on the new Senior Center facility is at this time slightly behind schedule, adding that the goal is to be fully enclosed by December so that work can continue. C. Schaller reported that at one of their future meetings the Permanent Public Building Committee (PPBC) will include on their agenda a presentation related to the interior space. C. Schaller reminded the Board that these meetings are public and members can sign up through the Town website to receive the agenda automatically on email.

Fundraising Committee - C. Schaller

C. Schaller reported that the Needham Senior Center Fundraiser would take place on October 17th from 6:30-9:00 p.m., at the Needham Golf Club. C. Schaller stated that she is expecting a good turn out adding that the Fundraising Committee has already received \$10,000 in donations. C. Schaller shared with the COA Board some of the silent auction items.

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

No Report

Visibility Committee -

No Report

L. Relich spoke briefly about the Needham Rail Trail Greenway that the Dover and Newton communities are developing. L. Relich added that a small group in Needham is interested in doing a similar trail. P. Fanger stated that Ted Staley

would be a good contact for specific information. This issue will be part of the discussion at the upcoming Town Meeting.

VIII. Board Member Updates

A. Rae made a motion to adjourn the October 11, 2012 COA Board meeting. D. Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.