

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
January 10, 2013
MINUTES

PRESENT: Carol deLemos, Scott Brightman, Ed Cosgrove,
Dan Goldberg, Eilene Kleiman, Andrea Rae
NOT PRESENT: Colleen Schaller, Roma Jean Brown,
Phyllis Fanger, Susanne Hughes,
Lianne Relich, Mary Elizabeth Weadock,
STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson
CONVENE: 6:45 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call To Order - 6:45 p.m. - Carol deLemos and C. Schaller Co-Chairs**
Carol deLemos, Co-Chair, called the January 10, 2013 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
No Action
- III. Chairperson's Report - C. deLemos & C. Schaller**
No Report
- IV. Potential Board Projects - J. Brenner Gutner**
J. Brenner Gutner explained that the Board Chairs had asked her to consider ways that the present Board members could assist the department. J. Brenner Gutner shared that it is difficult to find meeting space at the Senior Center on days that part and full time staff members might be available to attend and that meetings or trainings, when arranged, are often interrupted by Center business. J. Brenner Gutner stated that going forward staff meetings will convene the first Tuesday of each month and it would be helpful if Board members could support this endeavor by volunteering to assist with Center oversight during this time. Another area mentioned by J. Brenner Gutner was the necessity to update the Senior Center Handbook before the move to a new center. A general discussion ensued on how to proceed. J. Brenner Gutner can distribute an electronic copy of the existing Handbook to Board members who offer to work on this. J. Brenner Gutner stated that Board members can also view the existing

policy and procedure manuals as needed. They are located in the computer room.

V. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

COA Board members expressed their appreciation for a very informative Executive Director's report. A general discussion ensued on the Job Search Skills Training Program that was mentioned in the report and about plans to follow-up. A general discussion also ensued on the Case Vignette and the Neighbor Brigade, a non-profit organization created to transform local communities into ready-made networks of support. J. Brenner Gutner spoke briefly about the history of the program. J. Brenner Gutner shared that the MCOA (Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Centers) and Mass Home Care are putting proposed legislation together about future funding for the SHINE Program. J. Brenner Gutner will email additional facts about SHINE to the Board.

**VI. Friends of the Needham Elderly (F.O.N.E), Inc.
Report - Roma Jean Brown**

No Report

VII. Springwell Report - Mary Elizabeth Weadock

No Report

VIII. Committee Reports

Senior Center Update - C. deLemos & C. Schaller

Construction is on schedule. The building will be enclosed so that some of the finish work can begin. J. Brenner Gutner reported briefly on the Top Cat voice enhancement system and the possibility of it being installed. J. Brenner Gutner stated that she was very impressed with its capabilities.

Fundraising Committee - C. Schaller

No Report

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

No Report

Visibility Committee -

No Report

IV. Board Member Updates

E. Cosgrove asked if it would be possible to have a Flu Clinic at the new Senior Center site.

J. Brenner Gutner and S. Jackson expressed that exploring the possibility of a Flu Clinic at the new site is an excellent idea.

E. Cosgrove stated that he would miss the next two months because of his upcoming course that he is teaching.

D. Goldberg stated that another group of nursing homes are being sold. D. Goldberg spoke about the dwindling number of beds in Massachusetts.

S. Brightman expressed that the demand for more subsidized housing is increasing, adding that more and more older and ill residents are seeking housing options. S. Brightman spoke briefly about age requirements and need. S. Brightman also spoke about the pros and cons of Reverse Mortgage programs. S. Brightman expressed that he is hopeful that the new Senior Center would continue to offer education on Reverse Mortgage programs.

S. Brightman also spoke briefly about navigating the new Ride certification process. S. Brightman will send the Board more information on his findings.

A. Rae made a motion to adjourn the January 10, 2013 COA Board meeting. D. Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.