

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
February 14, 2013
MINUTES

PRESENT: Carol deLemos, Colleen Schaller,
Roma Jean Brown, Dan Goldberg,
Andrea Rae,
Mary Elizabeth Weadock

NOT PRESENT Scott Brightman, Ed Cosgrove,
Phyllis Fanger, Susanne Hughes,
Eilene Kleiman, Lianne Relich

STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Sherry Jackson

Guest: Tom Connors

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 February 14, 2013 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.
- II. Approve Minutes:**
No Action Taken on the January 10, 2013 Minutes
- III. Rail Trail Report - Tom Connors**
Mr. Connors presented information on the Friends of the Needham Rail Trail Greenway's plans to transform Needham's old railway corridor. Mr. Connors shared with the COA Board similar greenway projects from other communities. Mr. Connors spoke about the opportunities the rail trail would provide to the community of Needham and how seniors could use the trail that would lead them to the New Senior Center. Mr. Connor outlined how the trail would connect Needham, to Newton and to Dover. A general discussion ensued on bridge crossing over 128, maintenance and future funding.
- IV. Chairperson's Report - C. deLemos & C. Schaller**
C. Schaller reported on the meeting with the PPBC and noted that construction activity is progressing nicely. Adding that there are no issues holding up progress, the project is still on schedule.
- C. deLemos reported on her time as a volunteer at

the Senior Center and that she is looking forward to volunteering next month. C.deLemos and C. Schaller spoke briefly about the meeting that they attended with the Finance Committee.

V. Executive Director - J. Brenner Gutner

COA Board members expressed their appreciation for a very detailed Executive Director's report that is full of interesting information. A general discussion ensued on the funding Bay Path Elder Services received from the MetroWest Health Foundation. The COA Board requested comparative information on transportation numbers.

J. Brenner Gutner stated that she would forward information. J. Brenner Gutner noted that what's important is why numbers are up or down and that she and her staff look at this monthly and again annually. COA Board members expressed concerns about SHINE Funding. J. Brenner reported on her conversation with the Executive Director of MCOA(Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging) about this issue. A general discussion ensued on the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit for homeowners and renters. A COA Board member expressed an appreciation for the upcoming, "Safe Talk Suicide Alertness Training for Everyone," which will take place on March 21 in the Needham Public Library.

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

No Report. F.O.N.E did not meet in February. Next monthly meeting will be at the beginning of March. A general discussion ensued on the resource network available to help seniors with plowing, and ensuring that people have supplies to help them through storms.

VII. Springwell Report - Mary Elizabeth Weadock

M. E. Weadock expressed that the new Executive Director is in a transition period and that there are no new happenings to report at this time.

VIII. Board Member Updates

A. Rae reported on her plans to travel to New Mexico to attend The Gathering of Nations. A. Rae expressed that she will visit Ruidoso, New Mexico a town of 8K people. A. Rae spoke about the founder of the town

and efforts to bring the arts to this area.

A. Rae made a motion to adjourn the February 14, 2013 COA Board meeting. D. Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.