

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
November 10, 2016
MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Colleen Schaller, Penny Grossman, Carol deLemos, Phyllis Fanger, Dan Goldberg, Monica Graham, Tom Keating, Lianne Relich

ABSENT: Ed Cosgrove, Susanne Hughes

STAFF: Jamie Brenner Gutner, Latanya Steele

CONVENE: 5:00 p.m. – The Center at The Heights, 300 Hillside Avenue, Needham, MA

Call To Order – 5:01 p.m. –Colleen Schaller, Chair and Penny Grossman, Vice Chair
Colleen Schaller called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion and Vote

Phyllis Fanger moved that the Board vote to accept the October 13, 2016 Council on Aging Meeting Minutes as amended. Tom Keating seconded.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Chairperson’s Report – Colleen Schaller & Penny Grossman

C. Schaller stated that she and P. Grossman met with the Needham Board of Health, and Needham Youth Services Chairs regarding the consolidation of the Human Service Reorganization, on Friday, November 4th. C. Schaller recapped the concerns that were expressed at this meeting. C. Schaller stated she has reached out to the Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager. The Town Manager will meet with all three Board Representatives.

C. Schaller spoke about assurances from both the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager that the COA Board would preview the draft Health and Human Service positions before they are presented to the Personnel Board. C. Schaller expressed disappointment that this did not happen. A general discussion followed.

C. Schaller stated that she and C. deLemos met with Gary Crossen, former Needham School Committee Chair and member of the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Crossen has reached out to J. Brenner Gutner and is very interested in serving on the COA Board. C. Schaller and C. deLemos stated that they have felt that he would be a good addition to the COA Board.

C. Schaller stated that former COA Board member Mary Elizabeth Weadock also expressed interest in serving again on the COA Board. The Board of Selectmen will approve these two positions in December.

The Board discussed appointing Tom Gallant to the COA Advisory Board. Tom is an active participant and volunteer at the Center.

Motion and Vote

C. deLemos moved and Monica Graham seconded the motion to appoint Tom Gallant to the Needham Council on Aging Advisory Committee.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

A general discussion then followed on the Election Day crowd and tours of The Center.

Executive Director Report – J. Brenner Gutner

The Board expressed their appreciation for a great and informative Executive Director's Report. A general conversation ensued on The Center at The Heights's collaborative relationship with the Charles River Center.

T. Keating stated that he loved the graphics in the Senior Compass newsletter. He stated that it would be helpful if the font could be larger on other handouts produced to describe programs and services.

M. Graham stated that she would contact her neighbors who speak Russian to see if they are willing to help with translating brochures.

Friends of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report

J. B. Gutner stated that the Friends met recently to mail their annual business appeal letters. She noted that the Friends typically meet once a month.

Advisory Committee

J. Brenner Gutner stated that she and LaTanya Steele met with the Committee to discuss the appointment of Tom Gallant. A general conversation followed about programing at The Center and discussed the possibility of initiating a policy related to Needham residents having access to signing up for programs before non-residents. This process would be involved and needs further research to see what other COA's do. J. B. Gutner stated that patrons have been patient but that some programs now fill up quickly and this inhibits Needham residents from participating at times.

Committee Reports

Art Committee – C. deLemos reported that she and J. Brenner Gutner are hoping to meet with Fast Signs to talk about signage for The Center at the Heights art exhibit area. C. deLemos stated that the Art Committee is looking to collaborate with Needham Public Schools but are waiting until a determination has been made on how to put up signage that can be utilized with the different groups. C. deLemos also shared an update on suggested ideas on how better to display the existing tiles in the foyer, which might involve framing each tile.

Board Member Updates

Tom Keating stated that he has been very busy with Veterans activities. He has been

heavily involved with the Veterans Day Ceremony at Memorial Field and the luncheon that followed the event. T. Keating stated that 130 people attended this event.

Phyllis Fanger spoke about a North Hill group that is interested in volunteer work in Needham. A general conversation on this followed. P. Fanger will work with L. Steele on volunteer opportunities at The Center as well as at Springwell.

LaTanya Steele stated that this is a very busy time for social services at The Center. She and her staff as always are very heavily involved with ensuring all needs are met.

Monica Graham stated that she is returning to Phoenix, Arizona. She will miss the February, March and possible April COA Board meetings.

Lianne Relich stated she is leaving December 1 for Naples, Florida. She will be back in April. J. Brenner Gutner will ensure that both L. Relich and M. Graham receive the Board Packet each month.

Carol deLemos spoke about an email she received from Road Scholar. C. deLemos stated that Road Scholar is offering scholarships for caregivers for up to \$1400. C. deLemos stated that she would forward this information to J. Brenner Gutner for distribution to the COA Board.

Colleen Schaller stated that she will be traveling to Austin Texas.

Adjournment

Motion and Vote

D. Goldberg made a motion to adjourn the November 10, 2016 COA Board Meeting. L. Relich seconded the motion. The motion carried. Unanimous Vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Cheryl Gosmon, Notetaker