

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
October 23, 2008
MINUTES

Reminder: For changes see next month's minutes

PRESENT: **Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Helen Hicks, Dan Goldberg, Nina Silverstein, Andrea Rae, Mary Elizabeth Weadock, Colleen Schaller, and Roma J. Brown .**

NOT PRESENT: **Derrek Shulman**

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

CONVENE: **7:00 p.m. – Stephen Palmer Senior Center**

DISCUSSION:

- I. Call to Order - 7:05 p.m. – S. Hughes**
S. Hughes, Chair, called the October 23, 2008 Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

- II. Approve Minutes:**
Amended to include the following in Section VIII(B) “ N. Silverstein proposed looking into a speaker for the Willgoose Lecture.”
Motion by R.J. Brown that the Board vote to approve the October 23, 2008 Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes as amended. Second by M.E. Weadock. Approved unanimously.

- III. Chairperson's Report – S. Hughes**
 - A. S. Hughes reported that she has received a resignation from B. Tedoldi which was originally sent to the Board of Selectmen. The Town Manager will be asked how appointments will be made and what the level of input from the Council on Aging on proposed candidates will be.
 - B. S. Hughes reported that the Board of Selectmen formed the Senior Center Exploratory Committee and that C. Schaller, C. deLemos and M.E. Weadock were appointed to the committee.
 - C. S. Hughes stated that B. Tedoldi was the point of contact for the Friends with a local organization regarding a potential donation for the transportation program. She stated that the anticipated donation has not been received but that there are enough funds available to last at least through the month.
 - D. The Board discussed how to recognize B. Tedoldi and M. Dettman both of whom recently resigned from the Board. S. Hughes stated that she sent a letter to M. Dettman thanking him for his service. The Board discussed having a get together before the holidays if possible.
 - E. S. Hughes reported on the impacts of the recent state budget cuts. She stated that a \$4,000,000 cut to Purchase of Services and a \$3,000,000 cut to the Case Management Account will have an

- impact on ASAPs. The Board discussed other cuts including the potential for cuts if Ballot Question #1 passes in November.
- F. S. Hughes raised the issue of the Senior Center needing to be reaccredited. The Board agreed that since the new Senior Center project has been postponed for a period, now might be a good time to pursue reaccreditation. J. Brenner Gutner stated that Lois Camberg agreed to help with the process again. **Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to start the process for reaccreditation of the Senior Center. Second by R.J. Brown. Unanimously approved.**
 - G. S. Hughes stated that the Council on Aging is being honored with an Outstanding Service Award from Wingate Healthcare for its exemplary service to elders. A date for the award's breakfast has not been set.

IV. Executive Director – J. Brenner Gutner

- A. J. Brenner Gutner stated she and S. Jackson made a presentation at the MCOA conference. It was a facilitated discussion on programming and funding. She thought it went very well.
- B. J. Brenner Gutner stated that she had drafted a concept paper with Sandy Robinson on how to pursue ongoing funding for transportation through a community partners effort. N. Silverstein stated that Merrimack Valley has a similar program.
- C. J. Brenner Gutner expressed to the Board the gratitude she has felt over the past nine months for the efforts of the COA staff. She stated that with staff vacancies and changes it has been a great effort to keep everything together. She stated that no service or programs have slipped. The Board discussed elements of J. Brenner Gutner's report.
- D. N. Silverstein stated that the Board did not participate in the Harvest Fair because it did not have a display and asked if something should be pursued to be ready for the next community event. A. Rae stated that she was working on something. S. Hughes suggested she take a leading role on the Visibility Committee.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Willgoose Lecture – M.E. Weadock
M.E. Weadock reported that she has arranged for Dr. Wayne Westcott to speak at the Willgoose Lecture. The event will be held on December 16th at 1:30 p.m. The Board discussed how to promote the event.
- B. Springwell – M.E. Weadock
M.E. Weadock reported that the Springwell Board discussed:

- Springwell's financial audit which stated that everything was exemplary and there were no problems
- The impacts of the state budget cuts which did not result in service cuts but will slow growth of service.
- Springwell's "Eat Well with Springwell" campaign is this Monday October 27th. Wild Willy's has agreed to donate 10% of all sales from 11:00 – 2:00. The Board was encouraged to get people out to Wild Willy's Monday for lunch. The Board discussed ways to promote the event through Town.

C. Senior Center Committee – C. Schaller

C. Schaller reported that she received a letter from the Board of Selectmen regarding her appointment to the Board of Selectmen's Senior Center Exploratory Committee. The Board discussed the formation of the committee, membership and process going forward. J. Brenner Gutner suggested that it might be educational for the Committee members to come and spend some time at the Senior Center.

E. Visibility Committee

A. Rae reported on her efforts to develop some promotional materials for the COA. She suggested a slogan of "Needham Council on Aging – More than You Know." She described a promotional piece that would identify the various services and include pictures reflective of the department's work. J. Brenner Gutner suggested that she knows of someone who might take pictures and she will follow up on this. The board discussed opportunities to display information and promote the senior center.

VI. Board Member Updates:

N. Silverstein: Stated she was speaking on Livable Communities at the Marshfield COA on November 15th. She also stated that she would be making three presentations on November 6th at the Cleveland Clinic.

C. deLemos: Asked if the COA had ever considered having a water color class. S. Jackson stated that the COA did have a class in the past. C. deLemos stated that she met a person who was interested in teaching a class.

A. Rae: Told a story of an exchange student that stayed with her, is graduating from law school, and the 98 year old grandmother is flying out alone from Ukraine to the graduation.

D. Goldberg: Reported that D. Shulman was a featured speaker at an event he attended on Yom Kipper.

N. Silverstein: Suggested the Board hold a thank you dinner for M. Dettman and B. Tedoldi on December 17th.

VII. Adjourn (8:30 p.m.)

Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to adjourn the October 23, 2008 Council on Aging Board Meeting. Second: R.J. Brown. Approved unanimously.