

NEEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
January 8, 2009
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susanne Hughes, Carol deLemos, Helen Hicks,
Dan Goldberg, Nina Silverstein, Mary Andrea
Rae

NOT PRESENT Elizabeth Weadock, Colleen Schaller, Derrek
Shulman

STAFF: Sherry Jackson

CONVENE: 7:00 p.m. - Stephen Palmer Senior Center

DISCUSSION:

- I. **Call To Order - 7:00 p.m. - S. Hughes**
S. Hughes, Chair, called the January 8, 2009
Council on Aging Board Meeting to order.

- II. **Approve Minutes:**
**Motion by H. Hicks that the Board vote to approve
the December 11, 2008 Council on Aging Board
Meeting Minutes as presented.**
Second by D. Goldberg. Unanimously approved.

- III. **Chairperson's Report - S. Hughes**
S. Hughes stated that little has happened since the
Board's last meeting. She said she was sick for
several days and will be following up on some
action items this week.

- IV. **Executive Director - S. Hughes (on behalf of Jamie
Benner Gutner)**
S. Hughes stated that she had nothing to add to J.
Brenner Gutner's written report. N. Silverstein
asked S. Jackson to elaborate on the MCOA meeting
recently attended by her and J. Brenner Gutner. S.
Jackson stated that the meeting had a lot of good
discussion on health, learning and wellness and the
role of the Senior Center. She said there was also
discussion on providing workforce skills as more
seniors look to re-enter the workforce or to remain
in the workforce. The Board discussed some
potential programming or collaborations with other
organizations to provide workforce development
assistance. N. Silverstein stated that UMass has
some resources to pay for enrollment of seniors in
the gerontology program. On a related

topic, the Board discussed a recent document made available that identified various resources within the Town that can help residents during the tough economic times. S. Jackson stated that the COA's lifelong learning program is starting up in spring.

V. Friend's of the Needham Elderly, Inc. Report - S. Jackson

S. Jackson stated that the FRIENDS are trying to reduce the number of copies of the Compass that are mailed out and are asking those who receive the newsletter to affirmatively acknowledge their interest in continuing to receive the newsletter in a paper format. The FRIENDS are trying to convert as many subscribers to e-mail as possible.

VI. Committee Updates:

1. Springwell - No Report

2. Willgoose Lecture Committee - No Report

3. Senior Center Exploratory Committee - C. DeLemos

C. deLemos reported that the Committee met last night and Denise Garlick led the meeting in Jim Healy's absence. She stated that the Committee is looking to schedule visits to various senior centers. Some members of the Committee have already visited some senior centers. C. deLemos stated that Ms. Garlick wanted to discuss programming to understand space needs. C. deLemos suggested the Committee review the Catlin Report. She stated that the Committee is very thoughtful and is going to repeat a number of efforts that the COA Board already performed but she thought this would be okay because the Committee would become more educated on the topic. C. deLemos stated that the Committee formed a subcommittee to develop a survey to be used to gather information about desired elements in a senior center. N. Silverstein expressed concern that the Committee was possibly exploring issues beyond its charter. C. deLemos stated that most of the information gathering has been relevant to sizing of a

senior center. C. deLemos stated that the next meeting is scheduled for January 28th and the Committee is looking to hold a public meeting in April.

4. Outreach Committee - A. Rae

A. Rae stated that she thought of a slogan for the COA - "The Center of it all!" She plans on incorporating this into a display and flyer that highlights the services of the COA.

D. Goldberg raised the issue of the conversion to digital television and how the conversion is not necessarily easy. The Board discussed how the COA might further help educate and provide information to seniors on making the transition.

VII. Board Meeting Updates:

A. Rae: Asked if anyone was planning on going to the National COA conference. She stated that M.E. Weadock had expressed interest and that the Board might want to vote on funding the trip so plans could be made.

Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to approve the use of Donation Account funds to be used for Mary Elizabeth Weadock's attendance at the National Council On Aging Conference in spring. Second by N. Silverstein. Unanimously approved.

VIII. Adjourn (8:00):

Motion by A. Rae that the Board vote to adjourn the January 8, 2009 Council on Aging Board Meeting. Second by N. Silverstein. Unanimously approved.