

## Newton Council on Aging & Advisory Board Meeting January 23, 2018

Present: JE Heffron, A. Hoffman, M. Knapp, N. Krasner, D. Murphy, J. Norstrand, E. Picard, J. Picard, CA. Shea, N. Scammon, T. Shoemaker,

Visitors: J. Bell Isle, S. Rasala, L. Shaw, K. Stover

Notified: N. Brown, J. Colino, A. Cooper, B. Dugan, H. Haywood, E. Lorant, S. Paley, E. Watkins

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- I. Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.; minutes were reviewed; JE Heffron noted that she had notified J. Colino that she couldn't attend the last meeting. Oversight was noted. Minutes were approved.

### II. Chair's/Director's Report

- Transition Team Report

Concerns were raised that report was disjointed and did not accurately reflect the work that has been done by the Council on Aging. M. Knapp's two page attachment had been read by the Mayor and well-received; M. Knapp to continue following up with Mayor.

- Senior Center

Mayor has already started to form a new team to evaluate a new Senior Center and has asked for input. Several names have been submitted for the Evaluation Committee, including J. Colino, M. Knapp, and some members of the team who have been spearheading the new Senior Center initiative.

In general, the COA is supporting a Senior Center, not a community center; experience in other centers seems to indicate that unless the Senior Center is actually responsible for the site, then senior-focused activities can easily be squeezed out.

- New Hires

A new staff member has been hired to work with Ilana on programs outside the building.

### III. Springwell Report

- Springwell currently has openings for Medical Escort, Money Management and Ombudsmen.

#### IV. Senior Citizens Fund

- No official tally, but a number of thank you letters have been written.

#### V. Working Group Reports

- Housing

The following statement was sent to the Mayor:

**The Newton Council on Aging encourages the City to promote reasonable cost, age friendly housing for seniors on city-owned surplus sites. We specifically encourage the Planning Department to consider age friendly housing for seniors on the now surplus Newton Center Branch Library site and the Crescent Street project.**

We also reiterated our support for the Haywood House housing development, which went before the Community Preservation Committee on 1/23/18.

- Community Engagement

The first meeting of this committee will be held on Friday at 1:30PM at J. Norstrand's home. Social Isolation is becoming an area of increasing interest; Susan Albright contacted J. Colino after the election to express concern over the number of older seniors she met while campaigning.

#### VI. Legislative Report

- J. Colino was ill so nothing to report at this time.

#### VII. Old/New Business

- Zoning – there is a move to reduce the required number of parking spaces for residential units and restaurants
- J. Norstrand noted that the President of the Carroll Center reached out to her via LinkedIn to see if we can find ways of working together. M. Knapp suggested we have both the Carroll Center and the Commission on Disability come at the same time.
- Staffing – members again emphasized the need for additional staffing at the Senior Center; M. Knapp emphasized this in her two page summary to the Mayor. CA Shea suggested coordinating with J. Colino and advocating for this to the Mayor.

#### VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm