

Newton Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 24, 2015 7:30 p.m.
Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut St., Newtonville, MA 02460

In attendance: N. Brown, J-E Hefron, A. Hoffman, M. Knapp, N. Krasner, D. Murphy, J. Picard, E. Picard, E. Rosenbaum, N. Scammon, C-A Shea, D. Sostek,

Staff: J. Colino

Notified: A. Cooper, E. Dugan, C. Gibson, H. Gunner , H. Haywood, E. Lorant, S. Paley, C. Rose, E. Wade , CA Shea

Guests: Kerri Ann Tester (presenter); Gloria Michelson (guest), J. Norstrand.(pending appointment)

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Presentation: Kerri Ann Tester, Program Director, TRIPPS (Transportation Resources, Information, Planning & Partnership for Seniors), DOT funded program for Brookline & Newton

- The reasons why people leave their houses are related to Maslow's hierarchy of need.
 - Emergency or urgent situation
 - Necessary errands or appoints (MD appts.)
 - Love and belonging – visits to friends and family
 - Esteem – need to be respected
 - Self-actualization – realizing full potential/making life really nice
- Traditional transportation options
 - Taxi voucher (Veteran's taxi); The Ride; MBTA; ITN; Ride-share programs; FASTEN (a transportation app); Uber; Cycling; Walking; Driving.
- Why people avoid driving
 - Money, traffic, etc.; People giving up driving; Millenials – being close to transportation more important
- TRIPPS Program includes
 - Outreach and Education Events
 - Jeff Speck – walkability expert, designs cities around people – not cars; top 10 reasons to stop driving
 - Resource Guide – on-line and in print
 - Transit Advisory Program
 - Building a model to extend elsewhere
 - Volunteer-based services
 - Grant funding that requires data collection and reporting
 - Contact Info.: <https://twitter.com/TRIPPSMass>; 617 730-2644, Twitter, Facebook

III. Chair's/Director's Report:

- Age-Friendly/Livable Community Strategy Update:
 - There have been several drafts of a letter to AARP from the Mayor. The Strategy Group will discuss content and we will submit a revised draft for the Mayor's approval.
- Newton Leads 2040
 - The Mayor has new initiative looking at future needs including economic stability in retirement.

- M. Knapp met with TAB reporter Jonathan Dame re articles on senior issues.

IV. Membership Report: Some appointments are still pending, awaiting for City Hall to act.

V. Springwell Report:

- A. Hoffman reported on an array of Springwell services/programs

VI. Senior Citizens Fund of Newton:

- Annual fund-raising letter will be going out next week with focus on Emergency Relief Fund.

VII. Working Groups Reports:

- Housing:
 - Jayne is arranging for Housing Criteria to be presented to BOA members at a special meeting; Criteria will be branded with NDSS/COA logo and copyright will be noted; Criteria will be posted on NDSS/COA website; Austin Street vote will be December 12, 2015.
- Transportation:
 - J. Colino is having conversations with Newton Wellesley Hospital concerning a taxi voucher system.
- Community Engagement:
 - D. Sostek announced that Spring Fling will be held in early April. Date to be determined.

VIII: Legislative Report: None

VIX: Old/New Business:

- Floors in the basement are being refinished, the project is almost done.
- The new Health and Human Services Commissioner, Deb Youngblood, will be invited to attend an upcoming COA/AB meeting and present on her role and responsibilities and specifically on Newton Leads 2040 and the Coalition for the Economic Growth for All.
- Sylvia Goldberg bequest will be docketed with the BOA soon.
- Thanksgiving dinner will be held for approximately 50 people at the Senior Center on Thanksgiving day.
- People are interested in forming a study group. J. Norstrand will help organize this effort.

X: Adjournment 9:30 p.m.

Next Executive Committee meeting: 12/10/2015 - 3:45 p.m.

Next COA/AB meeting: 12/22/2010 – 7:30 p.m.