

Newton Council on Aging Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2014
7:30 p.m.
345 Walnut Street Newtonville MA 02460

COA/AB Present: N. Brown, E. Dugan, C. Gibson, H. Gunner, H. Haywood, J-E Heffron, A. Hoffman, M. Knapp, N. Krasner, E. Lorant, D. Murphy, S. Paley, , E. Picard, J. Picard, E. Rosenbaum, C. A. Shea, D. Sostek, E. Wade

Notified: A. Cooper, N. Hartstone, C. Rose, N. Scammon, T. Shoemaker,

NDSS Staff: J. Colino

Guest: Julie Norstrand

I. **Call to order**, 7:34 p.m.; Welcome; Introductions

II. **Chair's/Director Report:**

A. Benchmarking Project:

NCOA/NDSS Benchmarking Project Group (BPG) is comprised of J.Colino, B. Dugan, M. Knapp, & L. Heyison and D. Sostek. The purpose of the group is to gather data & information in order "to build a case for an increased, ongoing investment in healthy aging in Newton" in order to influence policy.

BPG has identified eleven towns that have comparable community profiles* (see next section) to Newton. Data will be collected that match to our Strategic Goals and Livable Community concepts. Data sources will be 1) Community profiles from U. Mass, 2) NDSS/NCOA survey (U. Mass), 3) Information from newsletters and websites, and 4) site visits.

Data collection has already started and should be completed by September 2014. The intent is to repeat the Benchmarking Project every four years.

B. Health & Aging fellowship with J. Norstrand not selected. Only 3% of submissions are funded.

C. NCOA annual meeting and dinner is Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

III. Healthy Aging Data Report – Community Profiles :

B. Dugan, Director of the U. Mass Healthy Aging Project, and NCOA/AB member presented data on Newton's *profile, along with methodology, data sources, and findings. She emphasized that Health Aging is not just "being alive" but is multifaceted, and includes elements such as a meaningful, proactive life, being engaged, having good diets, and living in safe communities. Newton's older population showed several characteristics that were worse than the state average. These were depression, receiving shingles vaccine, and physical activity.

She distributed Newton's profile (attached), described the website & how to use it (<http://mahealthyagingcollaborative.org/>). She noted how data can be used to impact local

government decisions. New Bedford, for example, has the most “w’s” (worse) and is actively using the profile to help make improvements. We will tie these data into our Benchmarking Project.

Newton’s profile will be used as the first of three aging-related sessions at the Library in the fall. The purpose is to raise awareness and also to present an up-beat story about our community.

IV. Membership Report:

The slate of nominees for the Executive Committee of the COA was presented by Nominating Committee co-chair Susan Paley. Slate is now closed and the vote will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Treasurer – Nancy Brown

Vice Chair – Diane Sostek

Secretary – Carol Rose

V. Springwell Report:

The Springwell Board of Directors has met to discuss diversity. Beth Schultz, Director of Development and Planning is identifying grant funds for improving diversity.

VI. Senior Citizens Fund:

No Report

VII. Working Groups/Initiatives:

- Transportation: No report
- Housing: Group working to identify available housing. Will tie work to Library series.
- Community Engagement & Awareness: Highly successful “Senior Prom” at the Post 440, on May 15th with 175 attendees. NewTV recorded it.
- LGBT Pride month and 10th anniversary of marriage equality event postponed to June 25th at City Hall 5:30 pm.

VIII. Legislative Report:

- FY15 Formula Grant/Service Incentive Grant increase was overwhelmingly supported by House and Senate. Thank Representatives and Senator.

IX. Old/New Business:

- Community Survey/Needs Assessment: Data collection complete with 26% response rate
- Waban Area Council held “ABCs of zoning related to housing development. Anything over 2 units requires special permit: 40 B or friendly 40B.
- Veterans Center monthly event will be relocating to the Senior Center on June 3rd,
- Jayne Colino named **Director of the Year** by Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging (MCOA). Presentation on June 6th.

Annual (Next) Meeting

June Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 6:00 pm; Dinner and Business Meeting