

MINUTES
NEWTON COUNCIL ON AGING
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

A meeting of the Newton Council on Aging (NCOA) was held at the Newton Senior Center (NSC), 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA on Tuesday, March 27, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Marian Knapp, Chair.

Commissioners Present: Nancy Brown, Mary Clafin, Marian Knapp.

Commissioners Absent: Audrey Cooper (notified), Louise Hauser (notified), Howard Haywood (notified), Susan Paley notified).

Advisory Council Members Present: Shirley Farnham, Holly Gunner, Jo-Edith Heffron, Ellen Krasney, Ernest Picard, Joyce Picard, Carol Rose, Dena Salzberg, Carol Ann Shea, Ruth Sherman, Diane Sostek, Jeanne Stolbach.

Advisory Council Members Absent: Kenneth Chang, Robert A. DeSimone (notified), Margaret Dwyer, Norman Hartstone (notified), Adele Hoffman (notified), Eric Rosenbaum, Nancy Scammon (notified), Tom Shoemaker.

Staff Present: Alice Bailey, Administrative Coordinator and Acting Director in Jayne Colino's Absence, Newton Department of Senior Services.

Guest Present: Judy Fischbach.

The **Minutes of the February 28, 2012 meeting of the NCOA** were moved, seconded and approved as written.

Chair's Report. Report on Meeting with Mayor Warren. Jayne, Marian, and Holly explored with the Mayor the possibility of designating a Member of the Newton Council on Aging as our Liaison with his office. Mayor Warren preferred that the NCOA link with City Hall through contact with Candace Havens, Director of Planning. Jayne, Marian and Holly met briefly with Candace. There will be further discussions to determine the most effective and efficient way to interact with the director of planning. **Strategic Planning Update.** Marian provided a slide presentation of the Strategic Planning Retreat Process which took place on March 22-24, 2012. Attendees included Marian, Nancy Brown, Audrey Cooper, Holly Gunner, Joyce Picard, Ernest Picard and Diane Sostek (members of the NCOA), Newton Senior Center Staff Members, Alderman Amy Sangiolo, Lowell Haynes, Planning Department, Judy Joffe, Springwell, and others. The Retreat was led by two consultants from SOAR (Service Opportunities after 55). A Final Report of the Strategic Plan Process is being prepared by Marian, Alice Bailey, Ald. Sangiolo and Lowell Haynes. Subsequently, an Operational Plan will be prepared. Key ideas focused on the need to maintain and enhance current programs and services while expanding the NDSS's leadership role. It is clear that the Newton Senior Center is well respected. Information about the Newton Department of Senior Services is needed—publicizing the goal of helping people to continue to age in Newton. Housing and transportation were main topics. The theme: "In Newton we encourage lifelong residency." As part of the retreat,

participants identified good partners for the Dept. of Senior Services, e.g., relative to programs, services, funding, grant writing, etc.

Presentation by Alice Bailey, Administrative Coordinator, Newton Senior Center. Sixteen years ago Alice joined the NSC as a part time employee; subsequently she became the 2nd full time employee (in addition to Jayne, the 1st) primarily responsible for the business aspects of the Center, leading to overseeing the entire program, including serving as Acting Director in Jayne's absences. Her responsibilities include supervising staff, the business management of the Center (including purchase orders and management of all funds), management of the medical equipment inventory and assignments, overseeing the Transportation Contract, particularly time consuming when it comes up for renewal/rebidding, etc., etc. Veterans Taxi is the current provider. This year (unlike in prior years) bids will be open for various companies-- unbundling the transportation needs—so that a lowest bidder might be awarded, for example, the “Rides to Houses of Worship” contract, another for transportation to medical appointments, etc. Together Jayne and Alice serve on Newton's Emergency Management Team. Three buildings in Newton are designated as shelters: Newton North High School, Newton South High School and Oak Hill Junior High School. Shirley Farnham spoke for all of us when she observed (through her 15 years of participation with the NSC), “We are very fortunate to have the Newton Senior Center and this Staff!”

Membership. Ellen reported that Jayne, Marian, and she had recently met with Judy Fischbach, a candidate for the NCOA Advisory Committee. Ellen will report Judy's credentials at the next NCOA Executive Committee Meeting and, upon approval, her name will be recommended to the Mayor for appointment. Ellen has been working hard on The NCOA Membership Information Packet and a draft was circulated for those present to review. The Packet should be distributed soon, possibly at our next meeting.

Legislative Report. Marian expressed thanks to those who responded to Jayne's recent request to contact our legislators with regard to proposed rates relative to the FY13 Formula Grant Allocation (line item 9110-9002) and for nutrition programs (Line item 9100-1900).

NCOA Liaison Reports. Holly: Transportation Advisory Committee. (Summary attached.) A (NCOA) group with Holly Gunner, Judy Fischbach, Carol Rose, Mary Claflin, and Shirley Farnham agreed to meet to brainstorm transportation issues. Information from their brainstorming will be used to determine next steps for advocating for senior transportation. Marian reminded members that the role and responsibility of an NCOA member who attends Committee meetings outside of NCOA (in Newton and beyond) is limited to individual participation, unless designated otherwise by the NCOA. NCOA must develop guidelines for liaisons who will represent the NCOA with other city departments and agencies.

Committee Reports. Carol Rose: Presenter Committee (Carol/Jeanne).

Carol reported that contact was made with Alice Ingerson (Community Preservation Act in Newton) whose monthly meetings conflict with our meeting dates and we have been unable to connect with Stephanie Pollack, Head, Transportation Advisory Committee, Newton. Members were asked to suggest topics and/or specific presenters. One such topic is the Village as it has evolved throughout the Newtons. Carol Rose, Jayne and Marian will attend an upcoming meeting of the Newton Highlands Area Council about this topic. Two specific suggestions for our April meeting: the Newton Economic Development Commission and the Accountable Care Organization.

Old/New Business. The next Life Transitions program at the Newton Public Library--on Housing—will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 19th. It was noted that the Newton League of Women Voters plans an open meeting on Thursday, May 17th about Parking.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Newton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Stolbach, Secretary