

DATE: March 14, 2024
TIME: 3:08 PM

**Belmont A.F.A.C. Meeting
1/11/2024**

Present: May Forkin, Jackie Dobson, Judy Morrison, Susan Polit, Paul Cowing and Timothy Flood

Absent: Jeff Liberty, Kristin Daley

- I. The meeting was called to order at 11:09 am.
- II. The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- III. Report on appearance at Select Board
A.F.A.C. presentation was delayed, and the Select Board said they could not seek agreement on Outdoor Space planning. There had been a successful meeting with Paul Cowing and Tim Flood about the proposals for Outdoor Space (O.S.)

It was decided that there would be advocacy with the C.O.A. board, T.A.C., and the Environmental committee, and at the December 15 public hearing proposing the O.S. recommendations.

IV Housing

The report on housing includes the decision to have an expanded Spring event in early May. Jackie Dobson reported that there would be work with various vendors representing various categories of assistance to elders in the community both in-home services, home modification possibilities and ways to stay engaged in the community. This would include transportation. Thus far, the categories offered are tentative and will depend on contact with vendors and speakers. Representatives who will be present might include: Town Departments, local and regional resources, health, in-Home and delivery services, How to stay independent at home, how to stay engaged in the community.

The Housing group will review this at their next meeting.

- V Personnel Changes:** It was announced that Dana , the former director of the COA , has a new position in Lexington and the interim director is currently Brandon Fitts who is also head of the Recreation Department. Brandon has information about accessibility.

Also, it was mentioned that Lauren was promoted to the Assistant Director of the Library.

- VI May Forkin reported for the Communications Committee**

The Belmont Voice now is on-line and will be published as a vehicle for town-wide communication. There will be a calendar of town activities. The Beech Street calendar features Senior Center activities and news.

May announced the beginning of a group on Thursdays 2:30-4 called Kinship of the Kinless which is led by Peggy Crawford, a retired psychologist. It is a group which

started with 6 members and now has 15 interested people. Discussed are many topics such as: affordable housing applications, the use of an Apple watch for emergency contacts (like a “lifeline button”) for falls or other medical emergencies; ways of

meeting needs such as drives to medical appointments; creating support networks (phoning someone daily for “wellness “checks) and emergency contacts; and forming social groups for potlucks, companions for entertainment experiences, etc.

VII Paul Cowing joined the group and talked about expanded recreational activities for all age groups.

Tim Flood joined later and was filled in about the conclusions we had drawn about presenting to the Select Board as reporting our recommendations and Out Door Space plans. Tim will meet with Christopher Ryan from the Belmont Planning Board to speak about the requirements for accessibility in view of the MBTA’s new requirements to housing near MBTA stations.

Judy Morrison will engage others to advocate for Outdoor Space planning such as Lucia Gates, from Shade Tree committee. The Belmont Disability commission and Health Department will also be consulted as co-planners and advocates.

VIII The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted Susan Polit, Community Member