

Belmont Council on Aging Board Minutes

Date: December 3, 2018

Venue: Beech Street Center

Present: M. Scali, chair, C. Bunyon, E. Hamann, P. Solomon, T. Dukas, J. Semuels, M. Cahalane, C. Qiang-Lai, N. Niv-Vogel, Dana Leavitt, J. Staton

Absent: T. Olson,

Call to Order: 7:00pm.

2019 JUL 24 AM 9:07

Minutes for November 5, 2018, amended and approved.

Senior Citizens Concerns - none

Friends

- Joel Semuels reported a record number of attendees at the Holiday Craft Fair. Jim Staton had tables and volunteers from First Church Belmont.
- The next Friends meeting will be 1/24, rather than 1/10.
- Articles are needed for the spring newsletter.
- The Friends fashion show will take place in Spring 2019.
- There will be funding for weekend programs and a weekend trip around Cambridge.
- A quilt will be raffled off at the Holiday party.

Director's Update

- There was a discussion about the problem of hoarding, particularly among seniors.
- There are currently more slots available than volunteers for the tax work off program.
- So far the number of volunteers available to do snow shoveling for seniors this winter, is down by 75%. Many seniors have specifically requested snow-blowing assistance, which is something that students are not permitted to do. Those who need help complying with the law regarding clearing sidewalks may apply for a waiver. Those who cannot afford to hire workers on their own can request student assistance as available.
- There still is no alternative for the taxis that were used for senior transportation.
- MCOA dues are now a line item in the Beech Street Center budget.
- Twenty-five people attended that RMV real ID program.
- The Beech Street Center Holiday party will be 12/11/18. The BHS jazz band will play. Appetizers will consist of fruit, cheese and crackers. The COA want the holiday party menu reconsidered due to both health and religious reasons. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. It will be sent to the Nutritional Director of the Mass Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Director of Springwell.
- December activities at the Center will include a performance by the Belmont Community Chorus, and the screening of Toy Story.
- January activities will include a presentation, "Pets and People". A representative from Springwell is scheduled to speak, and DA, Marian Ryan will speak about winter scams.

COA Mission Statement

- The updated Mission Statement was adopted with unanimous approval.

The Council on Aging is charged with advocating on behalf of older adults in Belmont. We collaborate with other Town departments and committees, as well as community service providers to enhance the quality of life for seniors. We respond to their concerns, seeking to educate the community at large about the needs of older adults while designing, promoting and implementing services and programs that enhance their general well being.

COA Board for 2019

- COA Vacancies: Three applications have been received for the two COA Board positions vacated by Jim Staton and Carolyn Bunyon. Nava sent out a list of questions and received replies from two of the three candidates.
- COA Leadership: The Board voted to accept the slate of candidates forwarded by the nominating committee, as follows: President - Chao Qiang Lai, VP - Ted Dukas, Treasurer – Maryanne Scali, Secretary – Tomi Olson.
- Next COA Board Meeting is January 14, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Dukas