

Minutes
Belmont Council on Aging Board Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2016
DRAFT

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Present: Michael Cahalane, Chair; Carolyn Bunyon, Ted Dukas, Ethel Hamann, Chao Qiang Lai, Penny Schafer, Maryann Scali, Joel Semuels, Judy Singler, James Staton, and Nava Niv-Vogel, ex officio.

Absent: Tomi Olson

Chair Michael Cahalane called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Senior Citizen Concerns:

A question was raised as to how someone could be trained on the exercise equipment if not available at any of the trainer's posted times. Nava replied that the person should contact her or Center Coordinator Lillian Hartman and they would try to arrange another time. After a person has been trained and is allowed to use the exercise room, then he/she can use his/her own trainer, but the initial training must be done by the Beech Street Center trainer.

Past Minutes:

Minutes for the January 4, 2016 board meeting were approved with minor corrections: add James Staton to the list of those absent; under New Business add the word carpet so that it reads Lobby area carpet needs to be replaced; the Library committee on which Joel is representing seniors is called the Library Feasibility Committee.

Director's Report – Nava Niv-Vogel

In addition to her written report distributed before the meeting, Nava reported the following:

1. This week the Center is undertaking its annual week-long people count. All day every day, there is someone sitting in the lounge physically counting every person who walks into the Center. This number can then be compared to prior counts, also conducted in March.
2. One of the lead stories this week on the Wicked Belmont news website is the Belmont Story Project. This is a collaboration of Belmont Public Library, Council on Aging, Belmont Media Center and the Belmont Citizen-Herald, and Belmont Historical Society, modeled after National Public Radio's StoryCorps.
3. Facility Update – Class Room B has been repainted, and the second-floor bathrooms are currently being repainted. Then the painters will move to the first floor. In addition, the stained ceiling tiles in the bathrooms have been replaced.

4. The Board asked Nava to carefully check the new website's information on glaucoma to be sure it is accurate.

Friends Report – Joel Semuels:

The Friends last met in January. The next meeting will be June 2, which will be Anne Lougee's last meeting as Board Member and Treasurer of the Friends. She has been instrumental in many of the Friends activities and her involvement will be deeply missed.

The fall Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, November 19, 2016. This is a week earlier than has been the case for the past few years.

Joel will be talking with Al Natale to see if he and his orchestra are able to do another Swing Concert in September.

A possible fashion show is under discussion. Hammond Realty has expressed an interest in sponsoring this fund raiser and the fashions would be supplied by Chicos in Burlington.

Springwell Report – Judy Singler:

Springwell has started a new program to provide private geriatric care management. This is an extension of services they already provide and has been under development for the past year.

The state budget for Springwell is basically level-funded.

Nava is still looking for another Belmont person to represent the town on the Springwell board.

COA Budget Update – Nava Niv-Vogel:

Nava will be meeting with the Selectmen tomorrow (Tuesday) to review her budget request. Maryann Scali and James Staton will attend to represent the Board.

Bob McLaughlin has contacted Nava to set up a time for the COA Subcommittee of the Warrant Committee to meet with her and members of the COA Board to discuss the COA budget.

Staff Appreciation Lunch:

The lunch will take place at noon on Thursday, March 17. A sign-up sheet was passed around for board members to note what they will bring to the lunch.

Working Group on Policy for Political Groups Presence in the Center – Michael Cahalane:

The working group has met and is still collecting information from the Town Clerk and other agencies/COAs. Various issues and positions were discussed, but any vote on a policy was postponed until the next board meeting. During the discussion it appeared that the board supported limiting the amount of campaigning – both by candidates for office and supporters of policy positions – to be done at the Center. The concern was that such campaigning might interfere with or disrupt COA programs. There also appeared to be little support for circulating petitions, including nominating petitions, within the building. While individuals could come to the Center to informally introduce themselves or meet with Center users, they could not leave

their campaign literature and they could not solicit money. Any literature left by a candidate would be removed by staff. The working group (Michael Cahalane, Maryann Scali, Ethel Hamann, Chao Qiang Lai, Joel Semuels, and Judy Singler) will draft a policy statement to be reviewed by the board at their next meeting. Once a policy has been adopted, it needs to be prominently posted, both at the Center and on-line.

Butler School Plaque – James Staton:

The Board members agreed to pay for the plaque awarded by the COA to the Butler School in December. The exact amount of individual contributions will be known at the next Board meeting

COA Annual Report has been submitted.

Age Friendly Community Initiative:

The use of the \$2,000 grant from MCOA was discussed. Nava recommended, and the Board unanimously approved, using the grant to pay the UMASS Gerontology Institute to put together preliminary data on trends in Belmont, and to prepare a presentation of the information which could be used for meetings with town officials and citizens to start a discussion on what Belmont can do to become more age friendly.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm. Next board meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday April 4, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Schafer