

Belmont Council On Aging Board Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2016

2016 JUN 10 AM 9:29

In Attendance: Chair. M. Cahalane, , C. Bunyon, T. Dukas, T. Olson, C. Lai, E. Hamann, P. Schafer, J. Singler, J. Staton, N.Nava-Vogel, Director

Not attending: M. Scali, J. Semuels,

1. Senior concern:

Snow shoveling? Transportation?

2. The April Minutes (T. Olson): accepted with minor changes.

3. **Director's report:**

The Warrant committee again questioned the COA's transportation budget. Committee member Bob McLaughlin suggested using UBER as alternative. David Kale, Town Manager, was supportive of CoA position and agreed that it is premature to use UBER service because it is not yet fully regulated and the Town would be unable to insure that it would be safe means of transportation for seniors to use at this time. The Director added that to use a service like UBER a consumer needs to have a smartphone, and most seniors do not have smartphones. Thus, the COA board does not support the UBER option.

Formula grant state proposal by MCOA may increase funding from \$9 per senior to \$10 per senior (\$1 increase). This could add extra funding for senior programs of about \$5000 per year based on the number of senior residents in Belmont. There was a question about whether COA members should advocate with Will Brownsberger (our state senator) about increasing the formula grant from \$9 p to \$10 per senior.

The Dance/Concert went great - about 50 seniors attended.

The Senior Initiative, **Age Friendly Communities**, will be held on May 18, at 2 times: 1:15 pm and 5:30 pm

Friends of the COA report (Ethel): Fashion Show will be on May 4, 2-4 pm. 200 tickets were sold, by board members who were each responsible for selling 10 tickets. There will be about 10 models, including Selectman Sami Baghdady's wife and daughters.

3 volunteers from Powers Music School will provide the music for the show. Maria Mingace organized the Fashion Show, who is a great advocate for many activities of COA.

4. **Springwell (Judy):** Springwell had the retreat on April 13. No lunch was delivered to the senior center that day. About 130 Springwell employees attended the retreat.

State budget had passed for Elder Services including Springwell. Judy was elected Chair of the board of Springwell. Belmont COA is still looking for a representative for Springwell.

5. The Financial component of Town Meeting will be heard in June.
6. **Policy of the Center for political Candidates: (Mike):** accepted minor changes and accepted as the part of this meeting. Generally:

"Anyone can bring in literature, but no tables are to be set up specifically for the political campaign. Political pamphlets cannot be left at the center. They need to be removed once the campaigner leaves the building. The COA cannot endorse anyone. All candidates should have equal access to the public at the Center."

Mike will send an updated version for Board's final approval.

7. **Belmont Town day:** 8:30 – 4:00 pm, May 21. Nava asked for board members to sign up.
8. **Treasury:** Mike brought the leftover cash in his sock to the new COA Treasurer, James Staton.
9. **Age-Friendly Communities:** on May 18 Researcher Jane Mutchler from UMASS Boston will come to the center and give a presentation on the age-friendly framework and demographic information on aging, and important issues facing seniors in Belmont.
10. Next COA meeting will be on June 7.
11. The meeting was adjourned: 8:30 pm.

Chao-Qiang Lai, Scribe
May COA