

**BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 5, 2004**

Present J. Brusch, E. Hamann, N. Hegarty, J. Horner, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee, B. Miranda, P. Solomon
No guests or other attendees were present.

Absent: M. Ahearn, J. Kantor, T. Morabito

Barbara Miranda (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes

The Minutes of the December, 2003 meeting were reviewed and amended to indicate that 15, not 13, design firms submitted proposals to the Senior Center Building Committee. The minutes along with the Director's report were then unanimously approved.

Report from the Chair

Barbara Miranda informed the Board about a conversation she had with the state Ethics Commission regarding the propriety of members of the Council on Aging Board being members of the Friends Fundraising Committee. There are four or five Council on Aging Board members affiliated with the Friends organization. What was made clear was that as long as the funds raised by the Friends were, in the end, deeded as a gift to the town and spent, i.e. disbursed by the Town, for purposes designated by the Friends organization, there would be no conflict of interest in COA board members participating on the Friends Fundraising Committee.

Springwell Report

Phyl Solomon reported on an article in the TAB about the "Gift of Hope" program at Springwell. Phyl also reported on the nominating process for a new representative from the Belmont Council on Aging Board of Directors. Barbara Miranda's request for nominations was followed by the nomination and unanimous approval of Neil Hegarty to fill the opening. Barbara mentioned that she had spoken with Neil about this possible nomination prior to the meeting. The next meeting of the Springwell board is on Thursday, January 22, 9:00 a.m. Neil Hegarty will join Phyl Solomon at this meeting.

Director's Report

Nava reported on one further issue in addition to her written reports (Attached). There was an incident of graffiti spray-painted on the front of the building over the New Year's holiday. Belmont Police were notified and the offending material was removed. There is no further action indicated regarding this matter at this time.

Old Business

Barbara reported that at this time the Youth Commission is discussing with the

School Committee the possibility of using school space for the Center at a reduced rental rate rather than the Senior Center.

An acknowledgement of Bill Morris's contribution to the Council on Aging was discussed and it was decided that Henry Kazarian and Anne Lougee would work together on a gift certificate and possibly a commemorative clock that would be suitable inscribed. Costs will be assumed by the COA Board members.

In discussing the budget process, Nava reported that the funding for the aerobics program would very likely be replaced even though there was an error and it was not allocated in the COA budget for FY04. She also discussed her recommendations for the realignment of some cost centers to allow for the hiring of an Administrative Assistant whose responsibilities would be primarily data management for services and budget. There was a favorable discussion by the Board of this recommendation.

Phyl Solomon and Neil Hegarty reported on the process of the Senior Center Building Committee's work (attached).

New Business

The newly reconstituted Cable Access Committee is conducting a series of focus groups to determine the wants and needs of the town regarding public access. The town has a newly hired staff member working on this issue and among other groups, the town is interested in the comments of seniors regarding local cable access. There will be a senior focus group as part of the process. One issue that was indicated as of interest to seniors was the possibility of a senior discount for cable television. Joe Horner indicated an interest in doing some volunteer work in this area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,