



**Belmont Human Rights Commission Meeting
Waverley Woods, 10 Olmsted Drive, Belmont**

October 7, 2010

Meeting minutes

Members in attendance: Lisa Bernt, Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Chuck Laverty, Fran Yuan

Members absent: Julie Cicalese, Paul Solomon, Connie Williams

Liaisons in attendance: Capt. Peter Hoerr (Police Department); Katherine Bonfiglio (Belmont Against Racism)

Also in attendance: Nancy Marsh, Manager of Waverley Woods; three residents of Waverley Woods

Meeting began at approximately 7:00 p.m.

- Introductions and discussion with Waverley Woods (WW) residents: WW is a housing complex of income-eligibility rental properties in the Wellington School district. Residents raised various issues, including disability access at businesses and at Belmont Public Library (e.g., not being able to enter building without assistance); difficulty for those with mobility problems; difficulty for residents to cross adjacent roads safely (lack of, or poor condition of, sidewalks, crosswalks). A WW resident also voiced concerns of veterans, e.g., disabilities, homelessness, lack of support.

Capt. Hoerr said that there is a plan to redesign the Trapelo Road corridor; unclear how this would affect issues of mobility that residents raised; recommended communicating with Town Engineer. HRC will contact Disability Access Commission. HRC will get information/resources for residents with mobility issues. Discussion of how to get more information to WW residents about town resources, information. Most residents do have access to internet; it was noted that Belmont Citizen Herald is available online. HRC will e-mail Nancy Marsh with information about Belmont Food Pantry, and any other information that might be useful to WW community.

- Minutes from September 15, 2010 were unanimously approved, with revisions.

2 No phone calls reported. Carl Brauer will check phone line in October; Chuck Laverty will check in November; Julie Cicalese will check in December.

3 Vacancy: There is still a vacancy on the commission; candidate must be a Belmont resident. Fran Yuan notified a prospective member (non-resident) of the residency requirement.

- Discussion of 40B Panel and difficulty of putting together a forum on the subject that is informative and productive. On October 19, 2010, the League of Women's Voters will be hosting a (state house) candidates' forum, where the subject will likely be addressed.

- Community Preservation Act (ballot question): Tom Younger e-mailed Fran Yuan that he had been informed by Ralph Jones that individual members could take a position on the proposed law. Paul Solomon in an e-mail said that: (1) the state Office of Campaign Finance indicated that campaign finance laws did not prohibit HRC from taking a position; and (2) taking a position on the CPA was consistent with the HRC Charter. The HRC unanimously voted to endorse the CPA.

- Immigration program/issues: Discussion of possible program addressing immigration issues. A question arose regarding ESL (English as Second Language) learning opportunities in Belmont, especially for less-common languages. Fran Yuan will gather information on the issue.

6 Upcoming films: "Thy Will be Done: A transsexual woman's journey through family and faith" will be shown at Belmont Studio Cinema, Nov. 11, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. BAR is sponsoring "Louder than a Bomb," narrated by Regie Gibson, Nov. 4, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at Belmont Studio Cinema.

d Capt. Hoerr reported on various personnel changes at Belmont Police Department (retirements, new hires, military leaves).

- Katherine Bonfiglio reported that BAR will be meeting with the school department, principals, superintendent re supporting METCO, and to present

funds. Next MLK breakfast theme will focus on programs that have proved successful.

- HRC unanimously voted to cosponsor next MLK breakfast.
- Discussion re time and place for next meeting, which is tentatively Nov. 3, location TBD.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 pm.