

Belmont Council On Aging
Board Meeting
December 4, 2006

Board Members Present: J. Semuels, P. Solomon, B. Miranda, H. Kazarian, H. Dvorak, N. Niv-Vogel, J. Horner, N. Hegarty, J. Kantor, J. Boucher, E. Hamann, J. Bruschi.

Absent: A. Verrilli, A. Lougee.

The minutes of the November 6, 2006 board meeting were accepted.

No one spoke on senior citizen concerns.

There were no general announcements.

Springwell: N. Hegarty reported that there was a permanent display of photo art of seniors. Also, the reports were good in terms of management. P. Solomon reported on a note from Sue Temper that frail elderly not eligible for subsidized programs may use Kate Burnham, MSW Caregiver Specialist, who works with seniors who need some limited one-on-one assistance. She can only work with them for about six months, but she can connect them to other services during this time.

Director's Report: There is now a senior aide providing custodial care five days a week who will also be able to provide some dispatch and front desk coverage. Cleaning should be better now that a Town maintenance position has been filled. State 9C cuts included a \$250,000 reduction that is really an increase being cut. MCOA is launching an initiative to restore those funds. There are still no instructions or information regarding the town's FY'08 operating budget process. Nava contacted Diane Hobbs of the warrant sub-committee. They are looking for possible ways to regionalize services. Once we have the new center, food service will be regionalized. The newly formed FY'08 budget task force will work on answers to whether select COA services can be regionalized and/or how they can be delivered differently. Research into what other similar and/or contiguous towns do, especially transportation, will be conducted by the COA.

Senior Center Building Committee: P. Solomon reported. The Planning Board closed the public hearing. The committee will meet 12/12/2006 to discuss the bathroom that will be accessible only from the outside. According to John Catlin, the initial cost estimate for the project is still holding. Payment for John Catlin's services is a major issue that is being dealt with. This must be settled by the 12/12/2006 deadline. If not, we would move to January and put off bidding. It has been agreed that the beech tree will be cared for with an arborist consulting. The building will now not be changed. It will remain as originally designed.

Friends: N. Niv-Vogel reported that the craft fair raised \$1500.00.

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program: J. Semuels reported. Six people have registered so far. An information session will be arranged. January 11, 2007 is the scheduled time. Cable television cannot schedule a program on air before this to attract more registrants. There was a question as to whether the course could be delayed for a week to allow for more advertising.

It was decided to have announcements rather than a program. In addition, Nava and Joel will contact other groups for more participants.

FY'08 Budget Task Force: The task force met at the conclusion of the meeting.

The next COA Board meeting will be held Monday, January 8, 2007, at 7:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Hildy Dvorak