

**Belmont Council on Aging
Board Meeting
December 6, 2010**

The meeting was convened at 7:35 p.m. by Ethel Hamann, Chair

Attendance: Cahalane, M. Hegarty, N. LeClerc, D., Lougee, A. Mullin, A. Scali, M. Semuels, J. Schafer, P, Olson, T.

Friends of COA Report:

* The annual craft fair was very successful. The attendance was approximately 500 and the Friends realized about \$4,000 in donated income.

* The Annual ‘Meat Raffle’ was also successful.

* The Annual Membership drive is underway and about 10-% of the early returns are new members.

Corrections to the November, 2010 Minutes;

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Three members were present but not listed. They were Anne Lougee, Angela Mullin and Penny Schafer. The minutes were approved as amended.

Elections:

The Nominating Committee moved that the new officers nominated at the November meeting be approved. The Board unanimously elected Joel Semuels as Chair, Angela S-Mullin as Vice-Chair and Michael Cahalane as Treasurer.

Director’s Report

* The Butler School has instituted a “Pen Pal” initiative with students corresponding with Senior “Pals”. There are three new “Pal” relationships at present.

* Lasell College has become active in offering educational opportunities at the Beech Street Center. The topics being considered are as diverse as Health, History and Ballet and will begin in January, 2011.

The Belmont High School Arts Program has offered to provide art classes at the Beech Street Center that will be taught by AP high school students This will be credited as Community Service and will take place during students free periods. A variety of media will be used.

* Town Survey. The town is offering an opportunity for citizens to provide comments about town services, mission, and future goals. However, the medium being used is the internet where senior concerns may not be adequately represented due to the smaller number of seniors who are conversant with the internet as a regular way of communicating.

* Regionalization of transportation services is a topic that is again being discussed. The Town Administrator has announced that he is considering a number of possible regionalization initiatives and the COA transportation service is one that he is exploring.

Senior Center Building Committee report

The most significant task that has recently been accomplished is the sale of the generator that was part of the original plan for the Center but was removed from the plans during construction. The City of Holyoke has purchased the generator for \$19,050.00 and is responsible for its removal.

Springwell

Springwell 33rd Annual Meeting was held on November 18, 2010. The agency is concerned about State funding for 2011 but more so for State fiscal year 2012 when significant state deficits are anticipated.

Protective Service notes: Area wide there were close to 1,000 complaints during 2009 and this is anticipated to rise to about 1,100 for the coming year. The average age of clients is over 80 with the range of ages spreading from 60 to 105. The response is determined by the severity of the complaint. Some calls must be handled within 5 hours (13%), a second tier within 24 hours (23%) with the last group being investigated within 5 days. (64%) . The program has a deficit of \$120,000 for which private donations are sought.

Long range financing report

The check-off on real estate tax bills is active for contributions to the Beech Street Center long range financing for extraordinary maintenance needs.

Fitness Room update

The Memorandum of Understanding drafted by the COA Board working group has been accepted by the Town and is in the hands of the Waltham YMCA for its consideration and approval. There will be no imminent request for funding for the equipment by the Belmont Elderly Citizens, Inc. until all of the agreements are approved.

Security Cameras at the Center

The Director and the Chair reported on conversations held with the Town Administrator and the Chair of the Board of Selectmen about the issue of the security cameras inside the Center and the appropriateness of their location and hours of operation. There is no conclusion at this time about this issue. The cameras are in place and operational.

“Rent the Center” report

Another successful open house was held for potential renters such as caterers, event planners and private citizens. One of the issues raised by guests is the limitation of open hours which should be re-visited.

An expanded working group will include Anne Lougee and Maryann Scali. They will join Angela Mullin who has been working on this process since its initiation. The group's initial task will be to explore revising the application form for renters.

Warrant Committee observers

The sense of observers is that the Warrant Committee appreciates the diligence of COA members in attending W/C meetings to observe and learn from the process.

Board Appreciation Luncheon for Staff.

Scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2011 at the Beech Street Center.

Executive Session

At 9:20 p.m., members were polled individually and voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to consider confidential personnel matters.

At 9:50 p.m., Board members were polled individually and voted unanimously to exit the Executive Session.

Adjournment. The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelius Hegarty