

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 2, 2004

Present: J. Brusch, E. Hamann, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee, B. Miranda, P. Solomon, J. Kantor, T. Morabito,
M. Ahearn. Absent: J.
Horner, N. Hegarty

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

Acceptance of Minutes: January minutes were accepted.

Dr. David Alper came in to report on the Youth Center and thanked us for the support the COA offered by approving a youth center at the senior center. The Youth Center will be settled at the Butler School. The Selectmen approved the place and the opening will be on February 20th. They will try it for six months. The principal welcomed them.

The Youth Commission will make a \$200 donation to the Senior Center
with thanks for our help..

Springwell Report: Major Bylaw changes: The Board approved the following change which will affect individual town membership. It is as follows: Board membership will consist of 2 voting members from each community and up to 6 at large members. This means that the alternate board membership would be phased out at the end of the individual alternates' current 3 yr term. This recommendation reflects an ongoing struggle by most towns to be able to sustain sending 4 representatives to the Board and suggests that efforts to ensure that 2 strong, active members from each town is sufficient. Currently only 3 towns (Belmont is one) have 2 alternates, 2 towns have 1 and 3 towns have none.

The annual needs assessment of caregivers is being finalized and COA directors have reviewed it.

The Title III transportation vendors' survey has gone out to assess users' satisfaction with the services. They are: Busy Bee, SCM and IDEA (a new vendor) (IDEA is used by Belmont residents.)

Neil Hegarty was welcomed as Belmont's new alternate member. He will be able to serve for 3 years as he was voted in before the Bylaw change was approved.

Director's Report: Nava reported that our budget would go before the Board of Selectmen on Saturday. Due to lack of staff time to deal with registering for the new trips Nava suggested that trip registration take place one morning and one afternoon a week and would be handled by trained volunteers. J. Kantor suggested setting aside time for personal attention would help in getting seniors to come at a time set aside for this help.

Nava noted that, since the presentation of the budget to the warrant sub-committee, some changes were made by the Town Administration. The amount of funds for aerobic instructor needs to be clarified for FY'04 and FY'05. News from the friends: Membership Committee will have a drive in April with a social planned for May 5. The Bel Aires will sing. The Architect will also come to present plans for the Center. The Fund Raising Committee met to prepare their materials. Susan Jones will help with graphic design. Many people in the community have expressed interest in helping with the senior center project.

The wife of Andre Guzeyer, the Belder Bus driver, died last week. Arrangements will not be finalized until Andre's daughter arrives from Sweden. The wife of Alex Yphantis died last month.

J. Kantor volunteered to head a committee to send condolences to people in need.

The Teen Respite program write-up in the Globe was well received. Karen is on vacation. The Center is starting to arrange trips for Seniors. The Cable Access meeting had a good response from the seniors. They are very interested in getting a discount on their cable bills.

The Senior Center Building Committee is going along well towards choosing an architect for the new center.

Board recognition of Bill Morris' years of service: H. Kazerian and T. Moribito picked out a clock engraved with thanks from the Belmont Council on Aging plus a \$50 gift certificate to Best Buy, to be given to him at Valentines Day Social on February 17th at 1:30 to 3PM. As an officer, Joe Horner will make the presentation on behalf of the board..

Donations: the question of how the COA should respond to questions from seniors regarding donations to the COA was addressed. In particular, now that there is a Friends organization some seniors may decide to give to the Friends instead. This may lead to a drop in revenues for the COA in the town account which funds the copier. J. Brusch suggested that we ask the Friends to handle the shortfall if donations do not come in to cover expected expenses. This suggestion was approved and the COA chair offered to come to the next Friends Board meeting to make this request. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Ahearn