

Minutes of March 14, 2005 HRC Meeting

Present: Steve Shestakovsky, Vice Chair, C. Bannon, J. Feins, A. Heron, C. Morrissey, F. Yuan, Lt. Peter Hoerr, B.P.D. liaison

Meeting convened at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes of March 5th meeting approved and seconded

Noted: Doug Reynolds' father passed away over the previous week-end.

A discussion was had regarding liaisons from other town departments (besides the police department). Chief O'Malley was quite definite in his opinion at the March 3rd meeting that there should be liaisons from other town departments, not just the police.

Using Doug Reynolds' "Bubbles" from his organizational chart, commission members volunteered to contact other departments and groups as follows:

FAITH COMMUNITY Steve Shestakovsky volunteered to contact the Rabbi who is the head of the interfaith council in Belmont. The council would like some kind of presentation before appointing or asking for a volunteer liaison. Steve volunteered to cover a presentation also, if necessary.

SCHOOLS Commission members felt Doug Reynolds would be a good person to handle the schools. He can discuss with the Superintendent of Schools and/or School Committee how to best handle appointing liaison member. Need Doug's agreement before this can proceed.

TOWN OFFICIALS Paul Solomon, Selectman, is already our liaison to the Board of Selectmen.

NOTE As part of this discussion, we agreed that the new town administrator, Thomas Younger, should be invited to a meeting. The Chairman should send a formal letter of invitation to him.

HOUSING; Judie Feins will contact Belmont Against Racism

DTC & FBE Cheryl Morrissey will contact

SENIOR CENTER AND YOUTH COMMISSION Fran Yuan will contact both

BUSINESS COMMUNITY Cynthia Bannon to contact Belmont Watertown Chamber of Commerce

OUTSIDE AGENCIES Postponed til later date

Next order of business was the feedback from the questionnaire. Chairman Steve Shestakovsky read the letter re: the questionnaire that appeared in the March 10th issue of THE CITIZEN. It was highly critical of the questionnaire and the commission and its members. After much discussion, it was decided not to reply to this letter. If it generates further negative letters and publicity in the paper, it was suggested that the Chairman write an answering letter outlining our Charge from the Selectmen, the aims of the Commission and the purpose of the questionnaire.

Need 6 members for a quorums at March 29th meeting. Five of the members present will be there as scheduled. E mail will be sent to verify.

Date set for meeting after March 29th. It will be Thursday, April 14th. (Note: Bill Rudman has agreed to arrange for Room 4 on that date.)

FEEDBACK FORMS There are many diverse opinions about living in Belmont. Housing and schools seemed to be foremost on the minds of the residents who replied (after banks and restaurants). There were not a lot of direct responses to the questions asked. Some questionnaires considered totally useless in terms of the information that we are looking for and can use. Agreed to separate questionnaires into two parts - those which have some relevant response and those without. A question was raised as to whether we asked the right questions and ways we might identify themes in the responses and the demographics.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Bannon

