

Minutes

Meeting of March 5, 2007

Present: P. Solomon, J. Bruschi, H. Dvorak, N. Hegarty, J. Horner, H. Kazarian, B. Miranda, A. Verrilli, N. Niv-Vogel.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair P. Solomon at 7:30 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 5, 2007 meeting were approved, with the addition of Joel Semuels to the list of attendees.

Announcements:

❖ A letter by Joel Semuels was printed in the Citizen Herald in response to a negative letter about the senior center the previous week. The board agreed to respond to any letters with misinformation.

❖ P. Solomon discussed the upcoming Courtyard Celebration at Chenery Middle School. There will be new TREX walkways and herbal gardens. Bob O'Brien is painting watercolors of the courtyard and Phil Drinker will be doing a workshop on digital photography.

Springwell: P. Solomon reported that a new director of Client Services has been hired: Suzanne Hughes, LICSW. She has worked at Springwell for 18 years, is president of the Needham stocktuckerCOA and has a very strong background in Protective Services. Neil Hegarty was "promoted" from a Springwell alternate member to a Member at Large. Springwell is sponsoring three legal workshops: Eligibility for Medicaid, Estate Planning, and Issues Regarding Health Care Proxies.

Springwell is sponsoring a presentation on Coping Skills for Caregivers in three sessions on March 10, March 24 and April 14 in different locations.

Director's Report. Additions to the printed report: The Board of Selectmen voted to raise the revolving fund from \$40,000 to \$50,000. The Middlesex County Sheriff's office has offered volunteers to make calls for the "Are You OK?" program. The stocktuckerCOA will identify seniors in need. The Belmont Health Department will work with the stocktuckerCOA to develop a survey to be mailed with light bills and the results will be given to the Sheriff's office.

A Legislative Breakfast will be held on March 28 at the Art gallery in the Homer Building at 8:30 am.. Board members are encouraged to attend. The

stocktickerCOA's social work intern, Jacalyn Boucher, has been instrumental in planning this event.

Transportation: The suggested donation for transportation has been \$1.00 for many years. The Director suggests that the donation be raised to \$2.00 to help defray costs. A motion was made and unanimously approved that the suggestion donation for transportation be \$2.00.

Senior Center: N. Hegarty reported that the process seems to be back on track. He pointed out an interesting article in the Globe business section on geothermal heating and cooling, which is included in the Senior Center plans.

Friends of stocktickerCOA: N. Niv-Vogel reported that Ann Howard is leaving to move to Braintree and that there will be a reception for her on Friday the 9th at 2 pm at the Senior Center. A fundraising event, the meat auction, will be held on March 28 at 7 pm at the senior center. The event will be publicized to the public.

Belmont Housing Authority Liaison: A. Verrilli reported that a grant application has been submitted to the state for an elevator at Waverley Oaks. The outreach worker's hours may have to be curtailed because of budget constraints.

Human Rights Commission Liaison: H. Dvorak reported that there will be a Fair Housing program at Town Hall on April 26. Issues that prevent people from moving to Belmont are not only financial and these will be discussed. April is Fair Housing Month.

Budget: N. Hegarty and N. Niv-Vogel presented the budget to the Selectmen. The focus of the discussion was on transportation and possible savings. The subcommittee asked about the feasibility of having somebody else do medical rides. N. Hegarty presented results of our five town survey showing that the Belmont stocktickerCOA in many cases provides more services on a limited budget.

N. Niv-Vogel told the board that the only subsidized program is the stocktickerESL program for lower income people. N. Hegarty talked of plans to get a 3 day a week, 9 month of the year intern next year to help with programs and other stocktickerCOA functions.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 pm at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miranda

