

**Belmont Council on Aging
Board Meeting
March 5, 2012**

Attendance: C.M. Hegarty, A. Morgan, P. Schafer, M. Scali, A. Mullin, J. Semuels; Chair, N. Niv-Vogel; Director

Absent: V. DeNovellis, E. Hamann, A. Lougee, M. Cahalane, T. Olson

- **Meeting called to order** by the Chair at 7:45 p.m.

- **Senior Citizen's Concerns:** none was presented to the board at this time.

- 3 **Review of Past Meeting Minutes:** approved with amendments.

- **General Announcements.** Neil Hegarty distributed copies of the new Belmont Council on Aging Bylaws which had been previously approved by the board. He also presented copies of articles from the Globe about a study conducted by UMass concerning the condition of the elderly in Massachusetts. The articles cited the struggle between income and costs in areas of housing, transportation, and food. Neil also discussed how transportation has always been found to be a necessity for seniors to access life! Without provided transportation seniors have trouble finding ways to get to medical appointments, stores, social opportunities.

Joel Semuels discussed the March 6th voting being held at the Beech Street Ctr. and the security around the arrival of Mitt Romney. Mr. Romney is a voting member of precinct 3, one of the precincts using the Beech Street Ctr. for voting purposes.

- **Updates and Correspondences:**
 - 6 **Springwell:** Neil Hegarty reported on the Governor's Proposed Budget which would result in a 24% reduction in the line item – **9110-1900 Elder Nutrition Program.** This reduction will directly affect home delivered meals and community dining programs across the state. Belmont is the beneficiary of both

types of nutrition programs - the daily lunch program at the Sr. Center and home delivered meals. Both of which are provided by Springwell. Springwell's share of this cut would be \$50,000 in a program which is not fully funded at present and is subsidized by Springwell's own fund raising efforts.

Possible action: contact our State Senator, Will Brownsberger, and ask for the restoration of funding to the present level for the budget that will take effect on July 1, 2012

- e **Director:** The Director reported that our Senior Center Coordinator will be leaving. She has accepted a position in the private sector. Until a new coordinator is hired, India will increase her hours to handle this position along with the support of Nava. Due to the increased responsibilities of this position (rentals, fitness room), Nava may need to change the job description making the requirement of Human Services essential along with experience working with seniors.

Nava also reported that the new Belder Bus will arrive in 10 weeks. This bus will hold 16 passengers. A dedication of the bus will occur in the Spring.

Nava also discussed a grant which she applied for to aid South Asian families and their seniors moving into our community. There is such an outreach worker in Burlington who will be applying for the position.

- 1 **Fitness Room Working Group:** The Director reported that all the mirrors have been installed, fitness machine training times have been scheduled, and orientations have also been scheduled for participating people to become acquainted with the room and equipment. The Life Line will be installed as soon as an analog phone service can be provided. Presently all telephone lines are digital.
- 8 **Budget FY'13 Working Group:** Penny Schafer presented the results of a meeting between COA board members and members of the Warrant Sub-Committee. Warrant Committee members are meeting with Town Departments to explain and

discuss questions being asked of all departments in the town of Belmont. Types of questions particular to the Sr. Center: events/programs, participation numbers, frequency rates, control of the use of access cards to attend programs, grants, flexibility to use monies, costs, the handling of monies within departments, consolidating departments, the use of social workers and other COA staff and volunteers, transportation, meals, and the COA building rentals. After a successful meeting, Nava answered the questions in writing and has delivered the answers to the Warrant Sub-Committee.

g Old Business:

- d **Planning for Open House with Neighbors.** Angela Mullin reported on the open house thanking all of our neighbors for their support in the building of the COA, which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2012. Time is from 5 to 8p.m. Location is the Beech Street Center. Light refreshments will be served. Maryann Scali has obtained an abutters map to provide the list of our neighbors who will receive invitations. Besides the abutting neighbors, town selectmen and previous COA board members will be invited. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Belmont Council on Aging.
- e **Bocce Court:** Maryann Scali reported that she has received a lower bid to construct the court. There is still a question about the court's impact on the irrigation system. COA members and neighbors have expressed very positive feelings toward the availability of a bocce court. This is not a COA Board program.

The COA Board meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Council on Aging will be Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted as understood and recorded,

Angela Mullin

March, 2012 Recorder

