

**MINUTES OF THE BELMONT COA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 18, 2006**

Present: N. Hegarty, Chair, H. Dvorak, E. Hamann, J. Horner, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, B. Miranda, A. Lougee, N. Niv- Vogel, Director, P. Solomon, J. Semuels, Ann Verrilli (Liaison, BHA).

Absent: John Bruschi

Neil Hegarty (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed, and upon motion and second, were accepted.

Senior Citizens Concerns: None received. However, a newly developed Belmont Senior Services Directory was distributed and is available for Belmont seniors. It was developed by COA staff as the result of senior citizen concerns raised in the League of Womens' Survey of the previous year. Special thanks to Alexandra Ferrar of the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

General Announcements: None.

Springwell. There will be a meeting of the Springwell Board on September 28th at 9.

Senior Center Building Committee: Chairman Hegarty began a discussion of zoning/planning issues and building committee issues concerning the new senior center. These include parking spaces (63 planned, 79 required), open space, a beech tree, a fence and an issue regarding a strip of land bordering the old Kendall School. The ownership of this strip, a Town entity, may be in dispute. A Town counsel opinion is needed on the land issue. The research by Town Counsel to provide its opinion has taken several months, and to date, has still not been provided. The next ZBA meeting, when the issues can be taken up, will be on November 11th. These issues are delaying the project, which is on budget. Prior to news of the delay there were high hopes to break ground in October. The board discussed the long and inclusive public process involved in developing the senior center, the impact that delay would have on programs and services for seniors and the possibility that the Archdiocese may sell the existing senior center by the time we are due to move to the new center in March, 2008. Discussion ensued on public use of the new building after hours and supporting the architect's appropriate design of the building. The COA will communicate with other appropriate boards in strong support for timely execution of existing plans and designs.

Director's Report: In addition to the written Director's Report, Nava announced that she is planning several caregiver support in-service trainings for town department heads and appropriate employees in October. She also stated that Jacqueline Boucher, a second year student is working on disaster preparedness plans for the COA 3 days a week.

Chronic Disease Self Management: J. Semuels announced that he and Nava met with Elder Services of Merrimac Valley officials during July regarding the Chronic Disease Self Management Program. Grace Moreno of Boston based Health Care for All was selected as the trainer for Belmont out of the 26 certified by Stanford University. However, the planned October start up date for the program is being delayed until January, 2007. This is due to the need of the various trainers to standardize charges and marketing materials and the need for availability of a second Belmont program trainer. Belmont Elderly Citizens will meet trainer costs and participants will meet the modest materials costs.

Non-Profit Friends Committee: A. Lougee announced that the recent membership drive drew \$6000 in dues and \$5000 for unrestricted donations. There will be a fund raising Craft Fair on November 25, and plans for a possible film festival and dance swing concert once it is known when construction for a new center begins. Anne mentioned that The Friends funded the publication of the Belmont Senior Services Directory.

COA Board Nominating Committee: The Committee, P. Soloman, chair (A. Lougee, H. Kazarian, H. Dvorak members) announced the COA Board Officers to be voted on for the 2007 Board Year beginning at the October meeting. They are J. Semuels, Chair; P. Solomon, Vice Chair; J. Horner Treasurer; Minute Takers; A. Lougee, H. Dvorak, E. Hamann; N. Hegarty; J. Bruschi; B. Miranda; P. Solomon.

Other Business:~ The Chair raised~issues to be reviewed during the coming year's budget process as raised by the warrant committee's COA subcommittee.~ These include:~looking at bringing in revenue for services,~service planning and delivery shared with other towns, and possible outsourcing of services, such as transportation and meals.

Human Rights Commission Report: H. Dvorak, liaison to the commission, reported that there will be ongoing discussions for potential intergenerational cooperation between elders and teens in Belmont.~ COA board members cited that this exists to some extent in the High School Community Service through activities such as snow shoveling.~

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BHA:~ A. Verilli, BHA liaison to the COA, reported on cooperation between the COA and the BHA on the resubmission of Community Development Block Grant application. She stated that she is available to hear requests and concerns of seniors and the COA that could be brought back to the BHA for them to address.

The next COA Board meeting will be held on October 3, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel M. Semuels