

Belmont Council on Aging Board Minutes

2018 JAN 11 PM 2:37

Date: December 4, 2017

Venue: Beech Street Center

Present: M. Scali, chair, C. Bunyon, E. Hamann, P. Solomon, T. Dukas, J. Semuels, J. Singler, M. Cahalane, C. Qiang-Li

Absent: T. Olson, J. Staton

Call to Order: 7:00pm.

Minutes for November 8, 2017, amended and approved.

Senior Citizens Concerns

- As a senior citizen and as chair of the Board, Maryann Scali designated Phyl Solomon to go to the Board of Selectman or Acting Town Administrator to look into the functionality and sufficiency of Beech Street Center parking lot lights, and report back to the Board.
- Cambridge at Home presentation: the Center Director, Nava Niv-Vogel, introduces Barbara Selwyn, Executive Director, who described her organization: as of 1/1/18, the name of the group will change to Cambridge Neighbors. It is a membership based non-profit that people join for services and community. The Group currently has 250 members, 17% from Belmont, who expect "concierge" services. The Group would consider ways to partner with the Belmont Senior Center, but Barbara questions whether or not people from Cambridge will drive to Belmont for events. Barbara asked Nava about relations between the Center and Mount Auburn Hospital regarding discharge planning when needed. Nava indicated that there was definitely a need for better communication. Barbara described a program at a similar organization, Newton at Home, involved with discharge planning. The program consists of volunteers trained to assist people who are discharged from the hospital. The volunteer maintains contact with the person to whom they are assigned, arranges for and monitors support services, and works to prevent social isolation. Discussing membership, Barbara made several points: complete individual membership is \$1,000.00/year; however, there are a number of membership classifications or categories that cater to people with who are in a range of economic and social situations, which are described in the organization's brochure. Membership offers free transportation to appointments; some members view this service as an "insurance policy;" members feel they are a part of a community where people know one another; volunteers offer companionship where they call other members once a week and visit twice a month. Single women, living alone, constitute 60% of the Groups membership. Barbara ended her presentation and handed out brochures to Board members, also leaving some with Nava.

Friends

- Joel Semuels reported that he Thanksgiving Craft Fair had over 500 people attend
- The Friends will organize a fashion show next year.
- Nava asked the Friends to support a "Senior Prom."
- The Friends applied to the Tufts Foundation for grants from the Gerontology Group for a focus group project.
- There will open rehearsals for the Belmont Community Orchestra.