

Board of the Council on Aging Monday, October 7, 2019

Present; P. Solomon, M. Scali, C. Qiang-Lai, N. Niv-Vogel, D. Leavitt, E. Hamann, E. Sullivan, T. Dukas, J. Semuels, M. Cahalane

Absent: T. Olson , J. Singler

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: September 29, 2021
TIME: 9:22 AM

1. Call to order: 6:58pm
2. Welcome of New Board Member: Mark Paolillo , who is a Former selectman in Belmont. He expressed a strong respect for the Council on Aging and the seniors of the town
3. Senior Citizen's Concerns: discussion about Housing at McLean and what the Belmont Housing Board and Belmont Housing Trust will do about it. Judy and Tomi are going to those meetings. Maryann says they want to change original plan and would have to go to town meeting for approval. Concern is that units will be reduced in number and eligibility will be different . Traffic may be a problem. It is currently horrendous. Too many lights and traffic backups occur on Mill Street. Also there is a backup from Belmont Center. Roads are not designed to handle 2-3 times as many people coming out of there. There is a need for moderate to low income housing. At one meeting the builder expressed a desire to build more town houses.
Adam Dash is Board of Selectman liaison. We should have questions and concerns for him when he comes.. We are asking Board Members on the Belmont Housing Trust to notify us of the meeting regarding the Belmont Housing property project.
Cross town busing should be part of the project. Traffic issues have already been subject of work by Selectmen. Significant safety issues exist. Nava will draft letter to the Selectman about this. The group that was named the Traffic Advisory Committee for years is now the Transportation Advisory Committee with broader responsibilities.. We should express our safety concerns to them. Traffic is concern for seniors. Drivers being not careful and sun blindness make for unsafe incidents. Move passed that Nava write a letter to Committee expressing concerns about safety on roads re safety of seniors given congested patterns. It strains access to programs. CC to Select Board..
4. Treasurers report: Maryann collected 10 dollars from each member.
5. Review of past meeting minutes: no minutes were available.
6. Updates and Correspondence:
Director: Friends voted to approve replacing 3 panels of bulletin board containing flyers with monitors. This project was delayed because vendor is first committed to the high school. Friends generously supplied \$11,000 for this purpose. A semi-anonymous gift of \$5000 was also contributed. We don't know when project will be done. There is a Kiosk project to be built by library carpenter. The kiosk will hold second monitor of My Senior Center. It will enable us to have people scan in as they come in and no lines at front desk. Nava to leave to go to Select Board meeting tonight. Judy wrote letter on the pavers at the Grove street playground and they did change the pavers. Community Development is too busy with other things and no one will be appointed. We will ask the Select Board whether they could suggest how Community Development could help. Nava was to meet with Select Board on budget , last week of October but she will be

away. Mark would like to be there whenever it is scheduled. Mark suggests that COA express its needs.

Assistant Director: Julia Child and Bocciburgers events each had more than 60 people attend, a book club and historical society event was great. Virtual reality, Revere Beach party were all good. Jane Peters at Media center will do a program. Dana Farber will do the Mammography van. Breakfast rollout on Mondays and Fridays. We want to collect attendance data. Active shooter training will occur with the BPD.

Friends: They just had their annual meeting. They added Debi Rosales and Linda Bolduc added from East Cambridge Savings Bank. Next meeting is Jan 9. All other board members are reenlisted. Friends funded scholarships, volunteer dinner, and expanded center evening and weekend programs. They funded a number of programs using email which will be used in cases of time constraints. They funded the volunteer driving program with Coldwell Banker. They funded software. They funded a mailing with Coldwell Banker. They also funded town day for CoA and the Boston Globe subscription and the 3 panels that will now be monitors. They voted to have 4 meetings per year- not in the summer. They raise about \$30,000 per year. Bequest may increase that. Membership forms are downstairs.

Springwell: Judy must stay in California. No updates

Police Chief Search Committee: Mark is chair of that committee. We have 5 people for interviews. Nov 2 another meeting. Likely 2 candidates will be presented to Select Board. A discussion of training officers to deal with the elderly was had. Police are especially good with elder abuse issues. Nava is not aware of internal training for police. Nava feels that Lt. Daley is on top of things. There is no mechanism of communication between Nava and the other officers.

Volunteer Driver Program: Open house; 13 people came, 6 handed in applications. Training is to start. Transportation numbers are down for September. One driver has been out. They had special trainings. People will drive when their schedule allows.

Old Business:
Moving Forward the Age Friendly Belmont Action Plan

Status of Belmont Housing Trust Plan for McLean Property see above.

Grove Street Playground Paver problem- they are being replaced by flat pavers. The letter from the COA Board was reinforcement.

Nov 23, Saturday is Crafts Fair downstairs 9 am to 3pm. Quilts will be raffled, they will have food. Salads Pizza soda water hot dogs.

Next meeting Nov 4. 7 pm.

Adjourn: 8:12pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Cahalane, secretary pro tem