

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: July 14, 2021
TIME: 1:55 PM

Minutes of Belmont Council on Aging Meeting
Tuesday June 1, 2021

Meeting Held on Zoom

Attending: Ellen Sullivan, Temporary Chair, Tomi Olson, Ted Dukas, Joel Semuels, Ethel Hamann, Andrea Pascal, Maryann Scali, Judy Singler, Marjorie Wayne, Andrea Pascal, Nava-Niv-Vogel (Ex Officio), Dana Bickelman (Ex Officio), Mark Paolillo, Selectman Liaison.

Absent: Chao Qiang Lai

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Senior Citizens Concerns/Public Comments

Following discussion a motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to publicize in senior notes and set aside up to 15 minutes for public comments (from 7 to 7:15) in the senior citizens' concerns section of the each C.O.A. meeting agenda.

Presentation of Plaque Honoring Mike Cahalane, Past C.O.A. Chair

Tabled until next meeting as Mr. Cahalane could not attend.

Updates and Correspondence

A. Director's Report

The if, when and how of the Center reopening was discussed. The Secretary of Elder Affairs is not considering the Center elder population to be as vulnerable as nursing home and assisted living residents. Community standards have been loosened, mask requirements are still in place for facilities. They would like us to open as soon as possible. Our Vendors and volunteers have differing views. We are discussing an incremental opening with staff. The first thing to open will be fitness when we have enough staff and volunteers to register people. Susan Barbato will show a video to reorient people to the machines. We should have the core activities ready by the middle of June. We cannot seek proof of vaccination but our travel vendors can. All Town buildings are mask friendly. Masking is optional. C.O.A. Directors are reluctant to open. We will update and amend our Use of Center rules to include infectious diseases and post them in the building. Town will provide signage "This is a Mask Friendly Building." We will open Tuesdays and Wednesdays and fitness program first. We will announce first on a robo call. The grab and go meals by Springwell will be available by the end of the month. Some volunteers are retiring.

We need volunteers to open. Town Clerk will start a Volunteer Clearinghouse as a Goal of Age Friendly Initiative.

B. Assistant Directors Report

May was a good month. We upped the outdoor programs-e.g. Mother's Day concert, Cinco de Mayo Grab and Go. Outdoor logistical things being figured out with Belmont Media Center such as large screens, mics, etc. We will be upping outdoor programs in June and July. Meeting with various groups to determine whether they want to meet outside or inside. C.O.A. is sponsoring outdoor movies with Rec. Department and Library. Location to be determined. Possible transportation of seniors to the Payson Park Concerts, Wednesday nights June 16 through September 1st was discussed.

C. Friends of C.O.A.

Friends Board meeting will be Thursday, June 3 at 3 p.m. on Zoom. Tom Nutile concert is scheduled for September 16th. Crafts Fair supposed to be November 20th. Will discuss at meeting. Don't know if they will occur because of Covid restrictions on the Center Opening. Lot of items on Center programs starting up after Covid to be discussed at meeting. There is a Board opening on the Friends Board and interested persons should contact Joel.

D. Springwell

Springwell is getting up to speed after Covid. Transportation money has come in. Will get meals back on site when logistics of vendors better. There are 2 taxi grants. One administered by Springwell and one by us. Judy Singler noted that the Housing Trust: McClain development information is on their web site.

Old Business

Review and approval of May 4th Minutes were not listed on agenda and will be taken up at the July meeting.

Nava stated between 100 to 150 seniors have joined the senior discount parking pass program. It is successful.

New Business

Presentation of Nominating Committee Candidate for Chair and Election

Tomi Olson was nominated to be Chair, Ellen Sullivan to continue as Vice Chair, no Candidate for Secretary. Nava cited C.O.A. rules, no Secretary needed. Director has and will post minutes. Rotating note taker used. Tomi deferred to Ellen to continue chairing meeting. Ellen continued.

Discussion of Open Seat on the Board

Judy Morrison applied but no materials forwarded on her to Nava from Town Hall. She was formerly on C.O.A. Board when we first opened. C.O.A. will recommend candidates to Select Board who make appointments. C.O.A. Board members should let Select Board know if they want to be continue. Committee appointments will take place after Town Meeting. Ethel Hamann announced that she is not continuing on the C.O.A. Board. Andrea Pascal has an interim appointment and should contact the Select Board. Three other members seek reappointment. There are two openings. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to publicize the Board openings on our regular press release sites. Appointments will be discussed at July 12th meeting.

Discussion of Senior Discount Recommendation Verizon Cable Service Contract with Town

The Verizon contract with the Town is being renegotiated. Belmont Media Center asked Nava for input. She is asking the C.O.A. Board to consider asking the Select Board for a negotiated senior discount on their bill. Discussion yielded positive support of a discount on seniors' cable bills. A motion was made, seconded and approved to ask for a senior discount, age 65 and over. Verizon currently has no senior discount for cable. The Cable Access Advisory Board, Mark Carty is the person to whom the request should be made. It was noted that Comcast has a low income discount, but not for the cable portion of the bill.

Next Meeting

July 12th at 7 p.m. on Zoom

By June 15th, we will know if the rules have changed regarding remote meetings. The Board decided to do Zoom if we can.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Joel M. Semuels,
Board Member