

DATE: December 8, 2021
TIME: 8:58 AM

COA Board meeting - November 1, 2021 - Minutes

Present: T. Olson, Chair, E. Sullivan Vice Chair, C. Qiang Lai, A. Paschal, M. Wayne, N. Niv-Vogel (Ex-Officio), J. Semuels, J. Shapiro, J. Morrison, M. Scali, K. Donelan & D. Bickelman (Ex-Officio)
Absent: M Paolillo Select Board Liaison, T. Dukas
Guest: Judy Singler

Call to order at 7:01 pm by E. Sullivan, Vice-Chr.

1. Citizens Concerns-M. Scali

Seniors are happy to be back five days a week and impressed by the November newsletter. Housing Authority has asked that residents remove all items from porches. Due to the merger of Belmont and Cambridge Housing Authorities, seniors in Belmont complexes have had trouble reaching housing authority about concerns. Due to this and concerns about Sherman Gardens, T. Olson will attend next housing meeting and report back.

2. Springwell Representative Report by J. Singler.

Springwell and Bay Path Elder Services will be merging in 2022. If there is a merger Springwell will have same name and same services. Bay Path wanted to expand and Springwell was the only group they contacted. Belmont needs a new representative to the Springwell Board. It will be for a 3 year term. Rep does not need to be a CoA board member. If interested, reach out to Nava. Nava will put this item on the Agenda for December meeting.

3. Introduction and welcome of K. Donelan to CoA board.

4. Review of past minutes-

Correction to October 2021 meeting minutes were made, and board voted to accept with those corrections. Going forward, the current meeting minute taker will make corrections to prior month's minutes if needed, and forward both prior and current to M. Wayne for review. M. Wayne will send to Nava.

5. Director's report – presented by Nava Niv-Vogel

One correction/addition to report: Due to an effort by the City of Newton, area CoAs will receive iPads as part of a grant. Belmont CoA will receive seven (7) iPads. Because iPads will be cell-enabled (cost to be covered by the grant), the intent is to loan to home-bound individuals who do not have WiFi in order to allow participation in virtual events (Zoom, etc). Loan period of 3 months is recommended. Newton is currently beta-testing; Nava wants to wait to see how beta test goes before developing a plan. Belmont will have to assume the costs for the iPads in July 2022. Other issues: finding trainer(s), may need to have a volunteer train, whether the 3-month loan period is too short. Discussion on hybrid programming; Nava will work with town to get a rolling monitor with a computer connection. Lighting above pool table/ping-pong table will be fixed by ordering new light fixtures which are easier to maintain. Age Friendly Committee stalled due to need for appointments from other groups, including school department and resident-at-large. Nava will discuss the concept of having alternates with the town clerk.

6. Asst. Director's Report – presented by D. Bickelman

Numbers reported for social work are low they didn't include Shine; this will be corrected. As stated in report, center is opening M-F (5 days a week) starting November 1, 2021. Virtual events have been well received. Hybrid programs should be good once people are shown how to participate.

7. Friends of the COA – presented by J. Semuels

Craft Fair Sat. Nov. 20th. 9am-3pm. K. Nichols is the coordinator. No bake sale, no food. Next meeting will be in January. Matthew Sullivan, VP, Cambridge Trust, will be a new board member, replacing Bill Sullivan.

8. Old Business: No progress made on hybrid meeting.

9. New Business:

100 Year old resident recognition: Town clerk would have that information. Considering doing a card with a dining certificate (e.g., Belmont Dines). Nava will look into possible party at senior center.

Transportation to/from medical appointments: Grant of \$8K was expended in April/May. Any funds available in new fiscal year will likely be ½ of prior grant. The CoA board agreed to approach the Friends of the CoA to see if it would consider funding. Joel willing to raise the issue, request a special meeting, but will need data. Margie and Ellen will work with Marty on a proposal that Joel can present. Other discussion/ideas – what other CoAs are doing, other fund-raising options, grants.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted, A. Paschal