

DATE: June 7, 2023
TIME: 10:28 AM

Belmont Council on Aging
Board Meeting Minutes May 2, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Tomi Olson (Chair), Dana Bickelman (Director ex-officio), Pierce Ellinwood (Assistant Director ex-officio), Karen Donelan, Ted Dukas, Andrea Paschal, Maryann Scali, Margie Wayne, Jane Shapiro

Not Present: Chao Qiang Lai, Judy Morrison, Joel Semuels, Ellen Sullivan

Agenda

1. Senior Citizen Concerns M. Scali
Reschedule Frank Sinatra soon (July or August)

Concern about social worker and David Marco (from the Fire Department) going to the homes of seniors who would be alarmed or wary.

Coronation will be fun on Friday.

When is cribbage? Tuesdays 3 - 5 p.m.

Stove and sink repairs are taken care of.

A. Companion Bathroom T. Olson

Carole Williams was present and said that the bathrooms in the Beech Street Center are not ADA Compliant for an individual in a wheelchair. Can't reach soap dispenser and can't look in the mirror. Carol expressed the same concern as a Town Meeting member the previous evening, saying the bathrooms in the Middle School/High School bathrooms are also not ADA compliant. Carole said parking spots don't make sense for handicapped people. It should be a straight path. She said car dealerships have the best ADA compliant bathrooms.

Karen Donelan said ADA compliance is the law and things aren't always done properly. She has knowledge about this and will work with Dana.

Tomi asked if Carole could write up a report.

2. Review of Past Meeting Minutes M. Wayne

There was a mix-up of who took minutes from the April 3, 2023, meeting so Margie wrote up her notes and Karen sent her notes. Since there was some different information, Karen said she would look at both sets of minutes and combine them and forward it for next meeting. Approval of April 3rd minutes and May 2nd minutes will be done at the June 6th meeting.

3. Updates and Correspondence

a. Director Dana Bickelman

Bike console for the fitness room will come soon.

Still no custodian.

Dana had a brief conversation with Jennifer Hewitt about the CoA share of the Uber/Lyft ride sharing money- \$4,000.00. This amount was originally allotted for the FY 2023 budget. Margie asked since we have not received the money yet to use and the fiscal year ends June 30th can the money be used up through FY 2024. Dana said monies can be carried over until next fiscal year.

Tomi asked about Lyft/Uber monies to which she thought we are entitled 50%. She was going to check with Judy Singler about the CoA share. She said we need to confirm what happened to these monies for FY 2021 and 2022. Dana said we be more beneficial with what happens to these funds in the future if and when they are allocated to the CoA for transportation needs. Dana will try and find out when these funds are received by the Town and how they are distributed.

b. Assistant Director P. Ellinwood

Previous Months Events/Programs: April had many exciting events. We hosted the AARP HomeFit event as well as Ellen Sullivan's housing downsizing presentation. We had several entertainment events including a presentation on the Wright Brothers, and a talk centering on game theory in WWII by a former Harvard professor. We also had our first weekend trip of the spring (April 29th) as a group headed to the Boston Common to view "The Embrace" and had lunch at Greg's in Watertown. All these events were well received.

This Coming Month: May is packed! Today we had a violinist from the New England Conservatory and on Friday we'll show the video of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in anticipation of the King's Coronation on Saturday.

We'll have a number of other entertainment/education events throughout the month. These include Viktoria Haase of the Belmont Historical Society, Illusionist Lyn Dillies, Kevin Bouck of the Dept. of Public Waste, Wendy Murphy to talk about forgotten female inventors, two professors of optometry, a talk titled "Happiness for Senior Citizens," and our own Joe Brown, who will give a presentation on his career as a muralist. We will also host several Tuesday evening events: piano performances by local students on 5/9, a Mother's Day Dance on 5/16, and an Indian dinner hosted by FISCO on 5/23. We are also launching weekly "movie nights" on Tuesdays at 3:00pm starting tonight!

We will also have several wellness-focused events: there is a Covid vaccine clinic on Monday 5/8, a shoe clinic for diabetics, a presenter from Honoring Choices about end-of-life decisions, and a workshop on stroke awareness.

Future Programs: June will kick off with our volunteer luncheon on Tuesday 6/6 and then feature a good mix of entertainment and wellness offerings. Some highlights include the long-awaited “8 Weeks in Ukraine” presentation, an Albert Einstein-themed one man show, an interfaith singing group in honor of Juneteenth, and a *Jeopardy!* Game at the end of the month, along with many others!

c. Friends J. Semuels — Not present

d. Springwell J. Shapiro

Springwell phone system is merging the Marlborough and Waltham offices mid-May. All changes happening are on the Springwell side so callers shouldn't notice any difference. All phone numbers remain active so callers can continue to reach the agency or individual staff members in the same manner. If you do encounter an issue, please let Springwell know.

Springwell has received funding to have staff available to assist older adults with MassHealth redeterminations for the next year. Hiring is in progress and as more information is available, Springwell will let COAs know how referrals for assistance can be made.

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs is enhancing the current program that provides support to individuals in nursing facilities who want to receive service in the community. Springwell will be learning more about the program in the next few weeks with the expectation of a July 1 start.

e. Transportation Working Group E. Sullivan not here. Margie mentioned that we received a \$150 donation from a medical taxi rider to help with the Program.

f. Age Friendly Action Committee Judy Morrison was not present but sent the following to Tomi Olson:

4/7/23 event was attended by Ellen Sullivan

1. Safe routes to School. Judy and Jesse Bennett are working on this.

Here are a few updates for AFAC.

April 7th event on HomeFit – Ellen was one of our sponsors and also attended. She could do a quick update on this as well as her own downsizing event. Notes for the AFAC home fit event:

- April 7th – Keynote speaker – Antron Watson, the AARP - MA Director of Age Friendly
- Program – included speaker highlight need for Age Friendly and AARP own HOME FIT guide, followed by Kristin Dayley showing the Belmont Companion

guide. The last 30 min were open discussion and table visits with Police, Fire, Social Workers, Jackie Dobson, consultant for home modification.

- Attended – 35-40 people
- Booklets are out and available at Beech Street, Library (may need to be put out at Town Hall).

Other AFAC activities :

- ADU – in early stages of gathering info from neighboring towns and AARP. More next month
- Outdoor spaces – we have a general guideline recommendation ready to share with COA board next month and will also share with Rec. Department
- Comms – working on reaching younger audience (50+) by working with other town websites (Library, school, rec) more next month.

4. Old Business

Maryann Scali — what happened to duplicate bridge group.

Margie said Patrice (Town Administrator) thought it was a good idea to highlight Marty and the drivers in a future month “Employee Corner” article in her newsletter. She said it might be (June or July).

5. New Business

A. COA meetings were discussed remote or in-person. June 6 meeting will be on Zoom. July in person. No August 2023 meeting.

B. Confirm time slots for Town Day for Beech Street Center table. Dana mentioned the time slots and who signed up to help. There are still some openings if anyone is available.

Upcoming COA board meeting dates and who will take the minutes were discussed for the rest of 2023. Some of the board members who were not present at the meeting were added. If unable to attend the meeting please let the Chair know.

June 6- Andrea Paschal

July 10- Joel Semuels

September 11- Maryann

October 2- Chao

November 6- Ellen Sullivan (date tentative- Town Meeting?)

December 4- Judy Morrison

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Shapiro