

Belmont Council on Aging – Board of Directors Meeting July 10, 2017

2019 JUL 25 PM 2:13

Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Cahalane, Vice-Chair; Jim Staton, Carolyn Bunyon, Ethel Hamann, Ted Dukas, Joel Semuels, Phyl Solomon, Judy Singler, Tomi Olson, and Nava Niv-Vogel, Director.

Absent: Chao-qiang Lai, Maryann Scali

Citizen present: Donald Mercier

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Michael Cahalane.

2. Senior Citizen Concerns: Discussion continued on the issue of modifying the Belmont property tax bills to notify property owners in a more prominent manner, of options for obtaining property tax relief. This is in response to the Tax Credit Program Recommendations of the MCOA and concerns brought to the Board by Donald Mercier. A letter was previously sent to the Board of Assessors from the COA Board regarding this issue. The Board voted to table further discussion of the issue until a response is received from the Assessors.

3. Minutes of the June 2017 meeting were approved.

4. Updates and correspondence:

A. Director's Report: Nava informed the board of cuts to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) budget. Nava is on the Advisory Board for the Mass COA and will obtain further information on the impact on Belmont. It is not expected to impact programming

Cambridge at Home is interesting in presenting information about its Village Movement program to Belmont seniors. After discussion, it was decided that Nava will contact the group about doing a presentation to the COA Board.

The Veterans Project at Claypit Pond requested the support of the COA Board for its work to redevelop the memorial there. The Board voted unanimously to support it.

B. Friends of the Belmont COA: The AL Natale Concert is planned for September 14th. One major sponsor has been identified for the event thus far: Keller Williams Realty represented by Yunia Chan.

C. Springwell: Judy Singler reported. Impact of state budget cuts being evaluated. Significant program adjustments are not expected at this time.

5. Old Business:

A. Long-Range Planning Working Group: Judy Singler reported that the group has begun meeting with directors of neighboring senior centers, with the expectation of completing the visits later this month. Report to the Board will follow.

B. Discussion Regarding Possible Liaison to School Committee: Tomi Olson and Ethel Hamann met with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss developing collaborations between the schools and the Council on Aging. They felt there was a positive response to this suggestion and will follow up.

C. Tax Credit Recommendation from MCOA: Discussion tabled as above.

6. New Business:

A. Newsletter: Nava brought to the Board's attention the possibility of changing the name of the monthly newsletter, presently called Senior Notes. This was briefly discussed, including the possibility of holding a contest to choose a new name. No Board action needed at this time.

B. Meet Belmont: The annual Meet Belmont night will be held 8/29/17 from 6 to 8 pm at the Chenery Middle School. The event introduces newcomers to town to the many services and activities available to residents. Board members are asked to volunteer to staff the COA table at the event.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 11, 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Singler
COA Board Member