

Council on Aging Board Minutes

Date: December 7, 2015

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Venue: Beech Street Center

Present: M. Cahalane – chair, P. Schaefer, E. Hamann, T. Olson, J. Semuels, J. Singler, J. Staton, T. Dukas, Nava Niv-Vogel, C. Bunyon

Absent: C. Qiang-Li, M. Scali

Call to Order: 7:35PM.

Minutes: November 2, 2015, amended and approved

I. Presentations by Rob Schreiber, Geriatrician and former Chief Medical Officer, Hebrew Senior Life, and Katherine Fontaine, Director Vitalize 360 program:

A senior life-style, choice program has been developed for Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC), nursing and assisted living facilities. The Beech Street Center and its programs for seniors have been selected for a one-year trial of the Vitalize 360 program for a council on aging environment. The COA Board voted unanimously in favor of this experimental trial; however, the need for regular feedback on information collection procedures was noted, as Joel Semuels raised concerns regarding privacy issues for those selected to participate in this program.

II. Senior citizens concerns:

Carolyn Bunyon noted that, despite repair attempts, the Senior Center dishwasher continues to drip while being used. Tomi Olson added that it is important to maintain the facility in good repair. Nava agreed to monitor this.

Mike Cahalane mentioned that Maryann Scali stated that, prior to Thanksgiving, the kitchen had not been cleaned properly, so that people who worked there on Friday had to deal with this situation.

III. Directors report:

There was a huge turn out for the “Bollywood” dancing class, so this is going to be continued bi-weekly. The Senior Center account currently has \$15,000.00 available for expenditures.

IV. Friends:

Joel Semuels reported that the craft fair grossed \$5,000.00. The next Friends meeting will be January 7, 2016, at 7:00pm. The group is looking for programming ideas.

V. Belmont Center planning:

Joel Semuels noted that no committee had been established to discuss the use of barriers for the “pass-through” in front of the Belmont Savings Bank. These barriers were the result of a compromise proposal adopted by a special Town Meeting.

VI. Springwell:

The search for a new representative from Belmont continues.

VII. Safe and Healthy Housing Planning:

There are no financial resources from the Town for this type of planning. There is a need for amending protocols and laws dealing with housing wreck situations. Discussions will follow between the fire and police departments and the new Board of Health Director. Nava will consult with a group, House Works, that with hoarding in housing. The Center will also apply for a grant from the Mass Housing Association for de-cluttering workshops.

VIII. Facility Management:

Nava has not received a response from the Town on the subject of duct cleaning for the Center. The Board will send a letter to Jerry Boyle, David Kale, and the individual Selectmen, requesting this service by Fred de Medici. Mold continues to be a problem due to the fact that the Center carpets were not entirely dried when they were cleaned. Ethel Hamann pointed out the garden still needs work.

IX. New business:

The nominating committee presented a slate of Board officers to be voted on January 4, 2016.

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Dukas