

**Belmont Council on Aging
Board Meeting
November 7, 2012**

2015 DEC 18 AM 11:10

Present: Joel Semuels, Chair; Michael Cahalane; Ethel Hamann; Stacey Hammerlind; Chao-Qiang Lai; Allan Morgan; Angela Santoro Mullin; Maryann Scali; Penny Schafer; Nava Niv-Vogel, COA Director; David Kale, Town Administrator; and guest David Robinson

Absent: Tomi Olson

Call to Order: 7:33 pm

David Robinson came to the meeting to tell about his company *Always Best Care* Services which is located in Belmont Center. The company specializes in helping seniors who want to stay in their own homes, but need non medical assistance to be able to do so. He can provide caretakers, homemakers, and assisted homecare placement etc. His referral services are free to clients.

Senior Citizen's Concerns: The lines on the new Bocce Court still need to be painted.

Review of Past Minutes: The minutes were approved after the following corrections. #2 add *not* in last line before "previously". #3 it is Dr. *Lobo* in two places. #5 under a. add after nominating committee *for 2013 officers of the Board*. #6 i. New town *administrator*. iv. Add after David Kale *and asked to further discuss...*

General Announcements: Vincent DeNovellis has resigned from the COA Board for health reasons as of November 1. The Selectmen will be discussing a replacement at their meeting on November 19.

Director's Report:

See Director's written report. Nava mentioned joint projects with the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. The November 1 trip was very successful. Belmont will be a satellite for the *Gonson Society* (?). Nava is encouraging more joint activities. About 100 replied to the annual satisfaction survey with overall favorable responses. About a third would be interested in an additional evening opening of the Center and would like musical performances. The Forum on Ballot question #2 was informative and well attended. 180 people attended the Indian Christmas which was a good outreach to another demographic group.

A policy needs to be made about closure of the Center due to storms. Currently it is closed when schools are closed. Programs are cancelled, but shouldn't the building be open to seniors who need to get out and have a resource to turn to. There is also concern about how to insure that necessary calls are answered if there is a problem with staff getting to work in an emergency or phone lines are down. Phone lines need to be answered for incoming calls.

Currently there is a good presence on Belmont Media, but Nava is concerned about the future of the web-site when Margaret Cole leaves in the Spring and how it will impact the Center and seniors.

Nominating Committee: The slate of officers for 2013 was presented by the nominating committee. This will be voted on at the December 3 COA Board Meeting.

Chair: Penny Schafer
Vice Chair: Maryann Scali
Treasurer: Michael Cahalane
Secretary: Angela Santoro Mullin

Transportation Working Group: They will have a report for the next meeting. They are surveying the surrounding towns to see how they deal with transportation.

Friends of the Council: Nava reported on their annual meeting. 3 new members for their board were voted in Phyl Solomon, Janice Ellard and Chao-Quang Lai. The Al Natale concert netted over \$1000 as a fund raiser. The Friends are committed to give \$3000 for the volunteer recognition dinner and \$1500 for the Social Service Directory. The Crafts Fair will be on Saturday, November 24. \$25,100 has been received as a donation from Daniel Wagner.

Springwell: The new Director of Springwell will be Rachel Steiner and will be starting soon. Springwell has moved to its new site where Yolanda's use to be. Judy Singler from Belmont will be a new at large member of the Springwell Board.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Stacey Hammerlind to the Springwell Board from the Belmont COA Board. It was a unanimous vote to appoint her to this position.

Warrant Committee: Bill Lynch is the new Chair. Liz Grob is chair of the subcommittee for Culture and Recreation which includes the COA, and Liz Allison is a member of this sub-committee. The following have signed up to observe Warrant Committee meetings: Nov. 14 Angela, Nov. 28 Ethel and Dec. 5 Joel.

The schedule will be sent out by email for future dates that people can sign up to observe.

December 14 Staff Appreciation Lunch at noon in the Board Room.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethel Hamann