

Belmont Council on Aging
COA Minutes
September 9, 2019

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DATE: August 23, 2021
TIME: 9:47 AM

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm

Present: Mike Cahalane, Chao Qiang-Lai, Chair, Ethel Hamann, Tomi Olson, Maryann Scali, Joel Semuels, Judy Singler, Phyl Solomon, Ellen Sullivan
Absent: Ted Dukas

Senior Citizens Concerns:

Judy Singler reported on the uneven surface resulting from the pavers at the Intergenerational Path near Clay Pit Pond. Judy will follow up on this issue and report back to the Board.

MaryAnn wanted to know if the noise in the wall had been identified. Several possibilities including dripping, mechanical problems could be the issue. Dana is looking into this.

The health of the Beech Street Center's Beech tree was discussed. The tree has very shallow roots. It is looking better but must be carefully tended.
All agreed that Belmont's PorchFest was a success. Some wondered if the musicians were available to the COA.

Senior Living options were discussed.

Watertown's special services for seniors were also discussed. Watertown seniors have special parking privileges. Joel mentioned that Belmont will have a new system.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasury of the COA has \$30. Time for a collection from the Board members.

Minutes:

July Minutes accepted as amended
August Minutes accepted as amended

Springwell

A new CEO/Executive Director, Trish Smith, has been hired.
The Director of Nutritional Services is Dahlia Cowen

Members of the Board requested that 2 programs be revived: Healthy Options and Transportation.

The Board congratulated Nava for her appointment as Regional Representative to the MCOA.

Dana reported on the Programming for the Month of August.. Many programs were offered from Baby animals, to a 6-week Brain health program, to an Ice Cream Social plus many more interesting programs. Dana should be commended for her great work.

On October 2 from 1-3pm, the Hi-Dose free Clinic will be offered to Seniors.

Friends:

The Tom Nutile Band with Jim Bramante was a success. The price of the concert was \$10 at the door.

The Friends will be having their 10th Anniversary Party

The Craft Fair is Saturday, November 23 from 9 to 3pm. Karen Nichols is the Chair.

The next meeting of the Friends is October 3, 2019

Search for new Chief of Police:

All 5 of the Candidates are from the Belmont Police Force.

Mark Paolillo serves as the Committee's Chair.

There are 10 members on the Committee.

The Board supported a letter from Nava on behalf of the COA requesting from the Board of Selectmen, the Search Committee and the Town Administrator, Patrice Garvin, that "Once the Chief of Police has been appointed, the COA Board requests that an officially designated member of the Belmont Police Department address senior needs."

Volunteer Driving Program

Ellen reported that an introduction for volunteers to the program will take place on September 17 from 3-5pm.

There will be training on the software for the VDP. It is anticipated that there will be a need for 700 rides/month. The Board agreed "Transportation is Senior Independence, " and that transportation needs to be curb to curb.

OLD BUSINESS

Nava asked the board for guidance on how to engage the BOS in establishing an Advisory Council to begin work on Ge Friendly Belmont goals. The Board

recommended that Nava ask to be scheduled to meet with BOS at an upcoming meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The need to submit minutes prior to the COA board meeting was discussed so that members have an opportunity to provide informed points for discussion in the meetings and to comply with Open Meeting Law requirements. Nava and Tomi have almost completed task of uploading all past meeting minutes onto website even though they were already provided to Town Clerk's office in hard copy form. Discussion of upcoming 10th anniversary celebration resulted in suggestion that Nava try to obtain BMC to record the event, as many in attendance might be sharing special stories about their experiences with working on the building project.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomi Olson
COA Secretary