

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 4, 2005

Present J. Brusch, E. Hamann, N. Hegarty, J. Horner, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, A.  
Lougee, B. Miranda, T. Morabito, J. Semuels, P. Solomon  
Absent N. Niv-Vogel

Neil Hegarty (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes – The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Scheduled Presentation – Due to illness, Dr. R. Schreiber cancelled his presentation on the “Best Practices in Senior Center Programming” planned for this evening. It has been rescheduled for the February meeting.

Springwell Report – There was no report, as Springwell did not meet in December.

Director’s Report (see attached). There were no additions to the Director’s report.

Old Business

Senior Center Building Committee report: Neil Hegarty reported that the committee did not meet in December and that there was nothing new to report.

Friends fundraising activities: Barbara Miranda reported that selectmen Angelo Firenze and Will Brownsberger have offered substantial assistance to the fundraising committee’s efforts. She noted that the results of the fundraising committee’s efforts has been to secure numerous pledges of funds for the new center and that the committee continues to actively pursue additional commitments.

In an effort to raise local awareness of the new center, Neil Hegarty reported that several COA and Friends board members have brought the model of the new center to after-service gatherings at local houses of worship, as well as to meetings of various community organizations. This has provided a good opportunity to answer questions about the new center and COA programs. Plans are to continue this practice.

Tax exemptions for elders: In follow-up to last month’s discussion, Joel Semuels reported that Governor Romney amended House Bill # 4910, designed to provide property tax relief to senior citizens, and sent it back to committee just prior to the end of the session. The close of the session necessitated that the bill (which had been passed by both houses) be re-filed in the current session. The bill has been refiled and the process of reviewing and voting on the proposed legislation must begin anew. If passed, the property tax exemption for seniors will still require the approval of each town.

Joel wrote an article on the subject of tax exemptions for inclusion in the February issue of *Senior Notes*. Barbara Miranda suggested he submit a similar but more detailed article to the *Belmont Citizen Herald* for publication in its Guest Perspective column as quickly as possible.

Belmont Elderly Citizens, Inc.: Outside counsel is currently reviewing the board governance structure and the decision-making responsibilities of this non-profit entity. The BEC was incorporated approximately 30 years ago, and it intended to house funds for a new senior center. Discussion will continue at the next meeting when more detailed information is available.

#### New Business

Volunteer Hours – Phyl Solomon described Springwell's method for tracking the volunteer time of its board members and passed around a form they used for this purpose. It was decided that a similar form would be included in each packet sent to COA board members prior to its monthly meetings for use in reporting time volunteered in the previous month.

Due to the scheduling of a special Town Meeting on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, the next COA Board meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Lougée