

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING
November 6, 2006

Board Members Present: J. Semuels, P. Solomon, J. Brusch, E. Hamann, H. Dvorak, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee, J. Horner, B Miranda, A. Verrilli, N. Niv-Vogel.

Absent: N. Hegarty

The minutes of the October 3, 2006 board meeting were accepted with the following corrections: include the rest of the slate of officers: J. Semuels, Chair, Vice Chair: P. Solomon; Treasurer, J. Horner; Secretaries, J. Brusch, B. Miranda, H. Dvorak, E. Hamann, N. Hegarty, P. Solomon. A. Lougee's name should be added to the list of those present.

No one spoke on senior citizen concerns.

Springwell: A Springwell board meeting was held on October 26, 2006. The annual audit has been completed with the overall outcome excellent. It was reported that the management team of Springwell is doing an excellent job of containing administrative costs.

Ms. Temper reported that one of the areas that MA Home care will be focusing on for FY'08 is Protective Services. It was stated that PS elder abuse reports are up 10% this year but there has been no increase in funding. The Protective Services Manager for Springwell has resigned as of 12/15/06 and a search has begun to hire a new one.

Director's Report: N. Niv-Vogel is waiting for budget instructions from the town administrator. The warrant Subcommittee is the same as last year. It is not known whether the town will require a level funded or level service budget.

The Director has been looking into starting some kind of programming at the Hill Estates. There are many seniors living there, many alone. She discussed the possibility of social events in the community room, and starting up a buddy system to check in with residents. When a new police chief is appointed, she will again ask about the computerized RUOK program, designed to keep track of elders at risk.

The COA's social work intern is doing research with other COA's to see how they handle the issue of elders at risk, which comes under Protective Services. It was suggested that some kind of survey could be done.

In the new Senior Center, Springwell will do deliveries, instead of the Meals on Wheels program. The food will be of better quality and menus will be given to participants every month. There will not longer be a limit on the number of participants in Belmont. Home bound status is the determining factor for eligibility, not income.

Friends of COA: The CPA has finished the tax filing. At the end of this month pledge reminders will go out. The seniors will have a crafts fair on November 25, 10 a. m. to 4 p.m. at the COA.

Senior Center Building Committee: The concerns brought forth by the planning board have been solved by the agreement to construct diagonal parking on Beech St. on a slip of land now on the playground. This land turned out to be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen and is not park land. The Committee is working on the possibility of allowing the use of one bathroom by the participants in sports teams on the field on weekends. It is expected that the Committee can move forward now and plan for ground breaking in March if all goes smoothly.

Chronic Disease Self Management Program. J. Semuels reported that new trainers have come on board through the Department of Public Health. These trainers will not charge for the course. It is expected that the course sessions will take place January 11, 18, 25 and February 1, 8 and 15 from 10-12:30. The optimal class size is 16 but the course will take place for 8-22 participants. The BEC will pay for the cost of materials in full and then each participant will be asked to pay \$22 (back to the BEC) to partially cover the cost.

Task Force on Operating Budget: The Director asked about follow up from Mr. Hegarty's suggestion to form a committee focused on budget issues. The director suggested that the best way such a committee could be useful would be to see what other communities are doing with services as a way of determining whether we can save money without cutting service. N. Hegarty, B. Miranda, J. Semuels, P. Solomon and N. Niv-Vogel will constitute the task force.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Miranda