

Belmont Council on Aging

Board of Directors Meeting December 6, 2004, Belmont Senior Center

Present: N. Hegarty, Chair, P. Solomon, H. Kazarian, E. Hamann, J. Horner, J. Kantor, A. Lougee, B. Miranda, T. Morabito, J. Bruschi, J. Semuels.

Ex Officio: Nava Niv Vogel, Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by chairman Neil Hegarty.

Acceptance of Minutes. The minutes of the November meeting were accepted with one spelling correction and one clarification. Nava pointed out and the Board agreed that Belmont seniors want a new Senior Center; that the old survey mentioned at the last meeting regarding Belmont elders not wanting a senior center was a 1984 "services" survey in which the questions were not professionally developed and the questions about a senior center were about costs not benefits to seniors. Accepted as amended.

Senior Citizens Concerns: None were raised.

Springwell Report: See attached.

General Announcements: Dr. Robert Schreiber was not able to attend this meeting to discuss geriatric community health programs within the structure of the COA due to a family obligation and will attend the January 4th meeting. Discussion ensued led by Nava and N. Hegarty regarding the progress and shortcomings of senior centers in neighboring towns and what has been learned regarding design, utilization, center programming and how revenues are accrued by after-hours and weekend rentals. N. Hegarty and others asserted that Belmont's Senior Center will generate revenue and that we are the beneficiaries of much senior center design experience. Barbara and Neil discussed activities of the COA Friends regarding the reaction to Friends' fund-raising letter, pledges received and meetings scheduled for next week with the fund raising committee and leading Belmont residents. **Director's Report:** Nava stated that her report was up to date. She is implementing a new volunteer structure to use volunteers as supervisors of other volunteers to ease staff time needed to supervise the 190 volunteers we have. This is recommended by other COA directors who have similar numbers of volunteers and is used successfully in other towns. Nava is submitting a \$2000 grant proposal to the State Office of Elder Affairs for improved software being developed by them. We are using the old STAR program. The COA is still not networked into the town accounting system even though this has been announced as having been completed by another town department. Phyl stated that Springwell keeps tracks of the number of hours their volunteers work and the computes the value of that to the community. She suggested and the Board agreed that we should do the same starting in January to count the valuable work being done and the costs saved for the town. Nava announced the Holiday Musicale taking place at St. Joseph's for up to 300 people, Tuesday, December 14th. The Senior Center model will be there with a new plexiglass dome to protect it made by Phil Cranshaw! Future locations to display the model were discussed. The Senior Center Building Committee's publicity sub-committee meets on December 9th at 1 p.m.

New Business: 1. A lively discussion ensued among all members on how town seniors could best be informed on the many tax exemptions for elders. J. Semuels mentioned that many are subject to local option. He agreed to inform the Board of the most recently enacted exemption, write an article on exemptions for the February Senior Notes and do community education on what is available in Belmont. **2.** Discussion was begun led by J. Horner on the Belmont Elderly Citizens, Inc. (BEC), its structure and its funds.

Discussion will continue at the next meeting when more detailed information is available.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joel M. Semuels