

**Belmont Council on Aging
Board Meeting
February 4, 2008**

Board Members present: J. Semuels, J. Bruschi, H. Dvorak, E. Hamann, N. Hegarty, J. Horner, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee, P. Solomon, N. Niv-Vogel, Director. A. Verilli, representative Housing Committee

Absent: B. Miranda

The minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting were accepted with one correction. Since A. Verrilli is not a COA Board member she should not be marked as absent.

There were no items for discussion under *Senior Citizens' Concerns*.

Special Guest – Anthony Schinella, editor Belmont Citizen Herald: The editor was invited to meet with the COA Board to: 1) discuss the elimination of the Richard Griffin column from the paper 2) explain why he hadn't published our letter to the editor and 3) determine how the COA can get better newspaper coverage. He explained that the parent company wanted the Citizen Herald to be only about placeCityBelmont news and people. The number of articles and the length of the paper depend on the amount of advertising that they can obtain. He explained that Tuesdays and Wednesdays are difficult days to get coverage of events by the editor or the reporter. It was a good meeting and gave us an opportunity to express our concerns as well as to meet the editor.

Budget update: Joel and Nava met with the Selectmen two weeks ago and with the Warrant Committee. They will meet again this week with the Warrant sub committee to discuss the budget the COA had submitted.

Springwell: This year is Springwell's 30th Anniversary. Tuesday, February 26 there is an outreach/advocacy/legislative day at the State House in Nurses Hall at 11 am. People are being encouraged to attend to advocate for the implementation of the recent Equal Choice legislation.

Rep. Will Brownsburger will hold a public hearing February 22 at 2 pm at the placePlaceNameSenior PlaceTypeCenter on protective services for seniors. Efforts are being made to have this taped by Belmont Cable for use in placeCityBelmont and other towns.

Springwell's strategic five year planning is underway. One topic is the identification of clients in need, e.g., should this be strictly by age or by disability for some people who may not meet the senior age requirement but who may be in need of the same kinds of services available for those a few years older. Issues of this type will be discussed as part of the forward-looking planning process to identify needs of the future.

Director's report: See pre-board meeting mailing

Senior Center Building Committee: Only 1 of the subcontractors has not submitted the necessary signed documents. Hopefully, the final contract will be signed within the week. The timetable for when the senior center is to be completed will start at the pre-construction meeting. The furniture subcommittee will make a visit to the W. B. Mason warehouse this Friday to look at furniture and explore options for furnishings. The groundbreaking committee will meet February 5 at 2pm – all are welcome.

Friends of the COA: Anne Lougee reported on the recent meeting of the Friends with Town Treasurer, Floyd Carman. All money that is received currently will be put towards the \$1 million committed to the town for defraying the overall cost of building the Center. Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars has been received so far.

The next COA Board meeting will be held Monday, March 3 at 7:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethel Hamann