

Belmont Council on Aging  
Board Meeting  
April 1, 2013

Present: P. Schafer, Chair; M. Cahalane; E. Harmann; A. Morgan; A. Mullin;; C. Qiang Lai; S. Hammerlind; M. Scali; T. Olson; J. Semuels; T. Dukas; Nava Niv Vogel, Executive Director

Absent: None

- Meeting called to order by Chair, P. Schafer, at 7:36 pm.
- 2 Senior concerns: M. Scali talked about a neighbor upset about the bocci court. She would like it moved. The Friends of COA have offered some conciliatory measures. It has been used twice. A rental group brought bocci balls and played bocci. The neighbor's complaint is about visual and noise concerns. Joel suggested that a history of offers be created by the director together with results of Judith Sarno's investigations. The board was concerned that the neighbor may have harassed bocci players.
- 3 Minutes were reviewed. Under section C, "friend" should read "friend's". A motion to accept the minutes as amended what was passed unanimously.
  - Updates and Correspondence
  - Directors report-George Durante is leaving in two weeks. He was here since November. He will be at a full time job in Nashua, New Hampshire. Nava will post the position after paperwork is completed. She will emphasize Grade 7. The ability to use spreadsheets is a must. The Grade 6 position (formerly India's) is posted. We will then have 4 full time people. The town doesn't want the grade 7 position to be full time. Nava wants to emphasize quantitative skills for this position. This year, there was only a 9 percent discrepancy from My Senior Center. So people are signing in. But they may not be signing in for all the things they are doing. Joel pointed out that there was an erroneous concern that the Beech Street Center is underutilized. It is important that seniors tell Town Meeting members of their experiences.
- 6 Transportation update- The results thus far from the transportation outreach effort show that people who said they don't use transportation seem to be living with family who take them on rides. Expanding medical destinations increase medical rides. This is the third month in a row that use has increased. Joel asked about the status of Chitra Subramanian (Town Accountant) considering a separate account for maintenance of exercise machines. It is a

subaccount. She doesn't want a separate account. The revolving account will be \$60,000. At Town Meeting, we will need to be prepared for several articles including one that involves the revolving account. This will seek an increase in the revolving funds. Nava will look into the daily activities numbers (perhaps the 2032 number is a typographical error).

C. Friends- The next meeting is June 6<sup>th</sup>. The annual meeting will be Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. The director of Friends thanks all who joined. September 19 is a swing (Al Natale) concert. The Friends raise money for the Senior Center.

D. Stacey did not attend Springwell this week. Nava sent info for training for COA board members.

E. FY -14 Budget- There was a meeting with Culture and Recreation Subcommittee. David Kale wants to see info before submitting to warrant committee. It includes info about the breakdown of transportation (frequency counts) and number of rides by type of activity, number of visits, number of times visitors come and participation broken down by age. The single 5 year bracket with the most participant is the 70-75 year age group. The Culture and Recreation Subcommittee meeting is 8 am on Wednesday. T. Olson said that at the last Warrant Committee meeting the COA budget was acceptable to the subcommittee.

The Chair expressed concern about the sequester and the amount of state aid that the town will receive.

F. Community Education Working Group- LPI publisher, who publishes Senior Notes made an error. They sent the error to the production crew. They agreed to do a whole reprinting. This has cost us time. It is a poster, not a flyer. There is a limited edition of Senior Notes Downstairs in the Center for people who rely on them. It will not be out this week.

Town Moderator, Michael Widmer was asked and we can hand them out at Town Meeting.

The meeting starts at 7 pm. We should be present at 6:30pm to distribute the posters.

Angela and Nava were thanked by the Chair for their work.

d New Business-

- Senior Work-Off Program Warrant Article- This is a program where seniors 60 and over can work at minimum wage and have it deducted from real estate tax bill. There are 16 people in Belmont who currently do this. Belmont has chosen \$750 as maximum. A warrant article has been drafted by the Assessors to raise it to \$1000 this year. Tax arrangement has chilled the number of people doing this. (Instead of deducting it from the tax bill, you get a check which is federally taxed). Joel will talk to Assessors about eligibility criteria. The Cir asked the Board to authorize Joel to speak for the Board in

supporting raising the limit to \$1000. A concern is that there is no limit to the number of people who may choose this option. Joel passed around info on what other towns do, Andover has 250 people in the program. A motion was made to support the warrant article to increase the limit to \$1000/year was made and the motion was passed. Further, the Board agreed that Joel Semuels may represent the Board on this issue before Town Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Another article on the Warrant is of interest that will increase the powers of the town administrator. This was not thought to have much impact on the COA. The Board discussed this and took no position.

Another article was written about in Patch regarding snow-shoveling within 12 hours. It is an effort to put the responsibility on the home owner. Penny brought up the dangers of an unshoveled walk. The Board did not want to take a position on this issue.

A director evaluation working group must be formed in April or May. Joel , Angela, Ethyl and Penny will be the working group. There is an open Board seat. Jim Staton has expressed interest.

The next meeting will be on May 6, 2013, unless Town Meeting requires it to be move to May 13. June's meeting will be on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Adjourn- Meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted;

Michael Cahalane  
Revolving recording Secretary