

**BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 7, 2005**

**Present: John Brusch, Hildy Dvorak, Ethel Hamann, Henry Kazarian, Anne Lougee, Nava Niv-Vogel, Phyl Solomon  
Absent: Neil Hegarty, Joe Horner, Jack Kantor, Barbara Miranda**

**Henry Kazarian, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.**

**Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.**

**General Announcements:**

**Special Election update:**

**Anne Lougee reported that there will be a town wide mailing in support of a yes vote for the November 14<sup>th</sup> ballot question regarding funding for a senior center. This letter will be signed by the three selectmen, Anne Paulsen, State Rep. & Steve Tolman, State Senator.**

**It was reported that funding for this mailing has been made possible by a gift from the Belmont Elderly Citizens fund.**

**Anne also reported that the goal of \$1,000,000 in private gifts has been reached. All money raised will be used for the capital project. About \$250,000 has been raised since the October Town Meeting.**

**Lawn signs are still available supporting a yes vote on 11/14. Contact Scott Ferson.**

**There will be a "robo" call made to all eligible voters. Edna Skelley will be the voice on the message urging people to vote on 11/14.**

**The League of Women Voters is looking for drivers for voters unable to get to the polls. Contact Karla O'Brien if interested.**

**A reporter from the Belmont Citizen Herald has interviewed Anne for an article in the coming edition of the paper.**

**Reports/Correspondences:**

**Springwell: 1. The results of the annual audit were presented by Daniel Dennis & Co., LLP. The audit was accepted by the Board as presented. The agency had a very successful year despite having dealt with an expanded protective service contract & increases in costs**

for the nutrition program. 2. Two areas of advocacy were discussed: One involving the removal of an arbitrary cap that exists on the provision of outpatient physical therapy for elderly and disabled individuals. The other is pending legislation for equal choice in giving individuals & elders with a disability the choice to pick a setting that is the least restrictive to meet their needs. 3. There will be another presentation of the Medicare Part D, the prescription drug benefit on 11/30 at 10 am at Springwell in Watertown.

**Director's Report:** Please see attached.

- Nava also noted that there has been no resolution regarding the custodial position at the Senior Center even though Town Meeting voted to fund a full time position this fiscal year & the funds are in the town budget.
- Since a level budget as well as a level service budget needs to be prepared Nava noted that for a level budget to be implemented appropriations for the day trips would be eliminated and some cuts in programs would be necessary.
- It was noted that Nava has gotten a new computer (staff is scheduled to receive them also) although she is still not hooked up to the town's system. This has resulted in missed notices for meetings as her new address is not operable.

**Friends Board & Committees:**

- The Annual Meeting of the Friends was held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board members & officers were reappointed by unanimous vote.

**New Business:**

- Nava reported the need for a new Medi-Car to take people for medical appointments. The current car has well over 90,000 miles on it. There is an opportunity to apply for a grant to provide funding for a 4-6 person mini van which would enable persons with significant disabilities to be transported to therapy and medical appointments. The van could also be made available for younger disabled persons subject to availability and expertise of the staff. The board unanimously supported her plan to apply.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

**Phyl Solomon**