

**Belmont Council on Aging Board Meeting
December 3, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:30, p.m. by Joel Semuels, Chair

Attendance: John Bruschi, Hildy Dvorak, Ethel Hamann, Neil Hegarty, Joe Horner, Jack Kantor, Henry Kazarian, Barbara Miranda, Phyl Solomon, Joel Semuels, Chair, Nava Niv-Vogel, Director

Absent: Ann Verrilli, Anne Lougee

Guest: Rep. Will Brownsberger

Approval of the minutes of November 5, 2007 as amended was moved by Barbara Miranda, seconded by Neil Hegarty and unanimously approved.

- Phyl Solomon distributed material and led a brief discussion of the “NORC” concept and whether it might be applicable to Belmont.
- Trainers for the Chronic Disease Self-management Program will be available from Cambridge/Somerville Elder services. The \$1,300.00 fee will be paid by Belmont Elder Citizens, Inc.
- Nava commented on the on-going budget discussions. There are no particular issues of concern at this point.
- The Friends of the COA reported on fund raising activities. The 2 November events succeeded in raising over \$3,000. There is now an effort to reach out to donors who pledged to the Capital Campaign for the Senior Center.
- Joel reported on a two hour meeting held with the new editor of the Citizen/Herald. The issue of balance in reporting on issues important to the COA, seniors in town and the Building Committee were discussed. There was a good response to our issues and a discussion on the changing pressures within newspapers where advertising revenues dictate the amount of actual space available for news articles. We were all advised to monitor the reporting of senior news in the Citizen-Herald.
- There was discussion of the issue of possible expansion of the numbers of members appointed to the COA Board. Joel has copies of the governing regulations about board membership and led the discussion. Jack Kantor had raised the issue and withdrew his proposal after the discussion indicated that the complexity of making such a change involved the Board of Selectmen and a warrant article for Town Meeting. Jack indicated his satisfaction with the discussion and the decision to maintain the present status. Although Mr. Kantor withdrew the previous proposal a discussion ensued on how to attract “baby boomers” to become involved in the COA. Joel asked what programs would be of particular interest to that demographic group. Nava responded that the research has been done on “boomer” interest. She recommended that at some point in the near future sub-committees could be formed to address development of programs that would be attractive to “boomers” when the new center opens.
- There was discussion with Rep. Brownsberger regarding services available to seniors. There was consensus that a ‘service fair’ could be arranged for Seniors in the

Fall that would present the various services available, attendance by services providers, including Springwell, housing options, health care, etc. The morning could be built around a keynote speaker with discussion, service booths, etc. to provide good information for all seniors in town. There will be follow-up between the COA and Rep. Brownsberger's office to discuss such an activity. Considerable interest was expressed for an alternative idea to invite Rep. Brownsberger and the new Secretary of Elder Affairs, Mr. Mike Festa, to a ground-breaking celebration of the new senior center.

- Senior Center Building Committee Report-Filed Sub-bids are due this coming Wednesday, and the following week the general contractor bids are due. The architect reported that there have been a good number of bids requested.

- Springwell Report. The Annual Meeting was held at Henderson House on November 12, 2007. The Annual Audit was finalized at the previous Board Meeting. Newly appointed Secretary of Elder Affairs Michael Festa will speak at Springwell on Monday, December 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Hegarty