

**Minutes**  
**Board Meeting of the Belmont COA**  
**February 2, 2009**

In attendance: John Bruschi, Diana Dick, Ethel Hamann, Henry Kazarian, Joel Semuels, Nava Niv-Vogel, Director, Ann Verrilli, BHA Liaison, Haesong Jeon, BCSSW Intern

Absent: Neil Hegarty, Jack Kantor, Anne Lougee, Judy Morrison, Angela Mullin

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:40 PM

Minutes of the January meeting were accepted without revisions.

General Announcements:

The Chair distributed a guide from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs discussing the role of Board Members

The Chair encouraged increased presence of board members at activities /events of the Senior Center

Springwell report: (see below) discussion of annual Springwell payments.

Director's Report: Attached.

The Governor's 9C cuts have decreased the formula grant to the FY'08 level. The impact to Belmont will mean not being able to purchase an LCD projector for Beech Street Center. However, salaries and the yearly support for the volunteer appreciation luncheon will not be affected.

Service incentive grants have also been cut.

Because of the hiring freeze, the morning driver position has not been filled. This has led to unnecessary delays in the pickup and drop-off of clients.

The degree of participation in the tax abatement program is being threatened because of the continuation of the participants being subjected to Massachusetts state taxes. Rep. Brownsberger is working with the DOR to achieve a ruling that the participants in this program will no longer be liable for state taxes.

Building committee report:

The construction of the Beech Street Center is delayed by probably several months. This delay is caused by several factors. Negotiations are ongoing between the building

committee and the general contractor to get the project back on track while maintaining a high-quality of construction.

Friends of COA:

The Friends conducted a very successful fundraiser/membership drive and raised \$10,885 through their mailing. An additional 285 individuals and families became new members.

The Friends donated funds towards a customized new database to the COA.

The Friends urged the Board of the COA to establish a draft policy regarding the proper after-hours usage of the new senior Center .

The Friends also suggested having the BEC provide payment of the 2008 and 2009 Springwell assessment (see below)

Old Business:

There was an update on the progress of the Fitness Policy and FY '10 Budget Working Groups

The Board voted to request that the BEC pay the 2008 and 2009 Springwell assessment. The Board, with great regret, concluded that these would be the last ever such payments to Springwell.

New Business:

There was a thorough discussion of the decision by Town Administration to move out of the current site of the Senior Center into modular units placed at the High School. It was agreed upon that this would be detrimental to several programs. The Board certainly appreciates the fiscal crisis faced by the Town as the driving force behind this plan. The Board pledges to cooperate fully in this move so as to meet the needs of our clients and the fiscal needs of the Town as a whole.

The Director presented tentative plans to continue the majority of the programs, provided at the Senior Center, during this transition phase.

Discussion of the possible COA recommendations of off-hours use of the Beech Street Center was tabled to the next Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Bruschi M.D.  
Recording Secretary