

**BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

April 12, 2004

Town Hall, Room 1

Present

M.L. Ahearn, J. Bruschi, E. Hamann, C.M. Hegarty,
J. Horner, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, T. Morabito, B. Miranda

Absent

A. Lougee, P. Solomon

Barbara Miranda called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

This was an early start and an abbreviated meeting due to a three part meeting consisting of a meeting of the Board of Directors, overlapping meeting with the Senior Center Building Committee and attendance with the Building Committee at the meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Acceptance of Minutes

Acceptance of the Minutes of the March 1, 2004 meeting was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Report from the Chair

Barbara Miranda outlined the purposes of the meetings this evening. The final meeting will be with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Directors will be present to support the work of the Senior Building Committee as it presents a progress report to the Selectmen. A key point in the Building Committee's report will be its intention to build a two story Senior Center rather than the earlier suggested two story building with a second floor "shell" the use of which would be determined at some later date. The program space demands for the Senior Center will consume all of the space in the new two story building.

Barbara also mentioned again the use of a possible "Senior Discount Day" at Shaw's Supermarket as an offset for the higher prices at the Belmont Shaw's Market.

Director's Report

- Nava is awaiting action on the COA budget that will be presented to the upcoming Town Meeting. There are no known problem areas at present.
- The budget submission includes several items of note:
- Hiring of staff on July 1, 2004 as earlier outlined by Nava.
- Trip planning: The Recreation funds basically went to support discounted bus trips and the Christmas Party. These funds will not be spread among all the Center trips.
- One of the upcoming trips is a three night trip to Washington, D.C.
- Some flexibility in the use of the "aerobics money" will be available so that other programs such as Strength and Flexibility and Tai Chi may be available.
- A restoration of the Revolving Account is supported by the Warrant Committee and will be included in an article in the Warrant. This would allow the Center to plan for some of next year's activities with present year's funds and also to use

the fund as a repository for donations.

Other matters presented by the Director:

*We have applied for renewal of the Teen Respite and Health Education grant from Springwell.

*Nava reported on an overture from a local entrepreneur who has access to National Institute of Health Funds to develop software and computers for senior use. The possibilities at this time are for a Senior Technology Day and the possibility of the Center becoming a learning site for computer literacy.

*Note was made of the fact that the State has raised the limit that seniors can earn from volunteer work. It would go from \$500.00 to \$750.00. However, if this was to happen it effectively diminishes the number of seniors involved because there is no additional town money to support these efforts. It was decided that it is too late in the budget cycle to deal with this in the present year and that it could be looked at again in next year's budget discussions.

*The Housing Authority has designated member Sallye Blieberg, MSW, as liaison to the Council on Aging.

*Nava reported on her discussions with the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work regarding the possibility of a graduate social work student who would work on policy, planning and administration for the academic year beginning in September, 2004. The student would work on advocacy issues and also with the Friends organization. This would be a year long internship of either two or three days per week.

*The Friends Annual Membership Drive is underway.

*Nava reminded the members of the upcoming Friends Social on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Center. Part of the evening will provide an opportunity to meet and talk with the architect who has been hired to design the Senior Center.

*Staff Appreciation Dinner. This effort had the enthusiastic support of the Board and will be planned for Noon on Monday, May 24, 2004, at the Center. Board members are asked to sign up for items for the luncheon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to join the Building Committee at the meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelius M. Hegarty