

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 9, 2005

Present E. Hamann, N. Hegarty, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee, B. Miranda,
T. Morabito, J. Semuels, P. Solomon, and N. Niv-Vogel

Absent J. Brusch, J. Horner

Neil Hegarty (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes – The minutes of the April 5, 2005 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

General Announcements – Neil Hegarty and Phil Cranshaw met with the president of Watertown Savings Bank to ask if the bank would reconsider its decision not to financially support the new senior center.

Springwell Report – The House Ways and Means committee has released the budget, which will now go to the Senate for vote. Anyone interested in being on the advocacy e-mail list should contact Springwell's Executive Director, Sue Temper at 617-926-4100.

Springwell has launched a newsletter, *The Source*, for area seniors and their families. The focus of the spring 2005 issue is the Self-Directed Care program at Springwell.

At 7 pm on Wednesday, June 15th, former governor Michael Dukakis will discuss his book, *Conversations with my Mother as She Grew Older*, at Gore Place, 52 Gore Street, Waltham. Space is limited. To reserve a seat call 617-926-1400 or e-mail events@springwell.com.

Neil Hegarty reported that, after discussions with personnel at the (newly renovated) Unitarian church in Belmont, the church is not a viable site for the COA meals program, as there would be costs to the church that Springwell couldn't fund. No other options are being explored at the moment.

Director's Report (see attached). Nava Niv-Vogel reported that the Selectman still need to make cuts to the town's budget. At this time it is uncertain whether those cuts will impact the COA in general and the custodial position in particular.

Nava announced that Brian Jennings, recently hired as the new transportation coordinator, will begin work on May 23rd. Brian brings relevant supervisory and dispatch experience, and has significant experience working with elders.

Nava had an introductory meeting with Tom Younger, Belmont's new town manager, and reports that he would like to hold future meetings at the senior center.

Old Business

Senior Center Building Committee report: Neil Hegarty reported that the committee is in a "holding" pattern. The Friends Fundraising committee recently presented the Building

Committee an update of its fundraising efforts to date. Neil stated the Selectman and the Warrant Committee are committed to the capital building projects, in the following order of priority: The senior center, the Wellington school, the high school, and the library.

Friends fundraising activities: Barbara Miranda reported that a town-wide mailing will be going out shortly, with another mailing to follow in the fall. The committee plans to report to the selectmen sometime in September.

New Business

Professional development for the Board – Phyl Solomon stated that Springwell invites a speaker (on a bi-monthly basis) to its board meetings and volunteered to explore something similar for the COA board meetings. She will report back to the board at a future meeting.

The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for June 6th, at 7:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Lougee