

**MINUTES OF THE BELMONT COA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2009**

PRESENT: E.Hamann, D. Dick, J. Kantor, H.Kazarian, A. Lougee, J. Morrison, A. Santoro Mullin, J. Semuels, J. Bruschi, N. Niv-Vogel, Director

ABSENT: N. Hegarty, P. Solomon

E. Hamann (chair) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE of MINUTES: The minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved with the correction of some typo/spelling errors.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S CONCERNS: No concerns were reported at this time.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: E. Hamann commented on how wonderful the new Senior Center is after the walk through on Thursday, June 11.

REPORTS and CORRESPONDENCES:

**Springwell:** In the absence of P. Solomon, Nava reported.

Areas of discussion:

- Filling vacated position - Sallye Bleiberg has a lead.
- Springwell continues to request matching funds of \$250 from the Town of Belmont despite the refusal by the Town last year.
- 3 A July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the senior center with a request that seniors contribute thoughts regarding meal presentation, decor, and related issues for the new meal site.
- There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in August which will be an opportunity for seniors to ask Springwell questions about the up-coming meal site. Nava provided the following information about the current and future operations of the Meals on Wheels program:
  - There are currently 5 routes and 5 volunteers for each route with 35 to 40 meals delivered per week.
  - With Springwell, the meals will be generated from the senior center kitchen.
  - 6 Seniors will know the menu in advance of the meals
  - d Seniors can opt out of a meal if they don't like the menu on any particular day.
  - e There will be more options – each day there will be a choice of a hot or cold meal.
  - 7 The Springwell funded driver will have a cell or radio to check on senior and delivery to that senior. This adds a safety check into the program and insures that an elder will receive his/her meal.

- 1 Currently, the Belmont volunteers do not have means of communication to ensure the elder will be home to receive his/her meal.
- 9 90% of elders live in Waverly area of Belmont. 10% of Elders in other areas. Therefore, with planned, organized routes delivery should be completed within an hour to an hour and a half.
  - 1 Springwell will be responsible for staging, packing, and delivery of all meals on wheels.
  - j Cost savings for Belmont:
    - Springwell will take over responsibility for the new site eliminating the meal site host position.
    - Drivers will be paid by Springwell – freeing the driver and transportation coordinator hours.

**Directors Report:** Nava reported that things are slowing down for the summer. Many activities/events can not be definitely planned due to the unfinished Sr. Ctr. However, if the center is ready by September many activities will be established. Springwell will be launching the new meal-site with a BBQ scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>. The event will be extensively advertised and coordinated with/by Springwell. The quilting group put together a special quilt for Pat Driscoll. Within the quilt, staff members could write a special message for Pat. Everyone was very emotional at a special coffee when the quilt was presented to Pat. Nava talked about how wonderful it was watching people come together to help each other. Jack Kantor mentioned how Starbucks wants to contribute to the community and the elders with pastries and coffee. Nava explained that this service was provided in the past, however, volunteers became too busy to call and check each day with Starbucks and make the deliveries. Many of the elders did not enjoy Starbucks' coffee. However, she did say that she would look into reviving this service at the new center.

**Senior Center Building Committee:** In the absence of Neil Hegarty, Nava addressed the budget issues around the Sr. Ctr. Ann Lougee questioned the \$120,000.00 figure for maintaining the building which will be in the budget of the Building and Grounds Department. She thought it should be more in the vicinity of \$70,000.00. Nava explained that this larger figure includes all the maintenance; snow removal, electricity, etc., especially since \$60,000.00 was estimated just for the electricity used to power the geothermal pump – a very large sum for just this one service.

Ann Lougee reported on a conversation she had with Floyd Carman, the Town Treasurer. He suggested that the COA develop a stabilizing fund to cover costs of maintaining the new Sr. Ctr. Possibly, this could be generated from fees collected from various activities offered at the Sr. Ctr. for others in the community and outside people. Another idea would be to set-up a special trust for contributions made to the COA/Ctr. which would be available for the up-keep of the building. Jack Kantor expressed how he visualized wonderful things for the entire community. "The

Sr. Ctr. is a “winning” Ctr. that must be maintained . The town may not continue to have the resources to support the up-keep. “ The board agreed that it would be a good idea to invite Mr. Carman to an upcoming board meeting.

There was a major discussion about the generator issue. Nava explained how a 100 kw was accepted for the building but due to a public safety issue a 150 kw was installed. Because the building is used by the public, the generator must have enough power to cover all needs. The major problem is the height of the generator. It is not to be higher than a 6 foot fence but presently it is almost 2 feet higher. Major issues holding back the finishing of the center:

- Generator can not remain. Planning Board approved 100kw. The Safety Board required 150kw. Architect installed the 150kw.
- Noise. The generator will run for only 15 minutes per month. The town tested for noise level and it did not exceed the town by-law. However, the state’s Department of Environmental Protection has much stricter standards.
- 3 Emission control. Elders are defined as sensitive receptors of polluting emissions.. However, the standards are difficult to measure.

Next Steps:

- Architect must crunch the numbers for various options with the generator.
- The Planning Board must approve whatever the option in order for the committee to receive a certificate of occupancy.
- 3 Modules are needed for Wellington School children. Pressure for the COA to move out.
- COA Board can help by being supportive and responsible when talking of this issue in the community. Neighbors are upset and angry.

**Friends of COA:** Anne Lougee reported the following:

- Fall - Larger news letter for annual membership drive and distribution of a new newsletter.
- Spring - Shorter news letter.

To date, the Friends grossed \$8,000.00 from brick sales. Netted \$5,000.00.

Friends transferred \$100,000.00 from the Capital Campaign to the Town.

Friends raised \$1m from donations and pledges for future payment and transferred \$750,000.00 to the town last year.

- 6 The remaining \$150,000.00 will be collected over the next two years.

**Fitness Room Policy Working Group:** In the absence of P. Solomon, Judy Morrison reported that by the next meeting the group would have the full recommendation for the fitness room. They will probably follow the North Hampton COA Town model. Joel has drafted the documents needed for medical releases, fees, membership, pricing policy, pool, etc. Hours will probably be in line with Ctr. hours, otherwise an after hours cost may be applied. A survey was sent out to 200 town residents beginning at age 50 and older. The survey asks about types of exercise

classes, equipment, hours needed, times of use per week, and whether there will be a need for extended hours.

**Budget Working Group:** No discussion held at this time.

**After Hours Use of Beech Street Center:** Henry Kazarian stated that after talking to others within the community, he believed that the center will probably be used after hours. However, this is an on-going conversation. Recommendation from the board to first speak to the abutting neighbors to then determine whether after hours use can be offered. Also, as Henry had reported in a previous meeting, there are other considerations requiring examination such as costs for after hours use.

**DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP IN FY'10:** E. Hamann brought up the names of three members whose terms are up. They are J. Bruschi, N. Hegarty, and A. Lougee. Anne Lougee expressed her sadness yet need to not continue on the COA Board. Family, time, and other commitment issues make it difficult for her to continue. Everyone expressed their disappointment and sorry about Anne's leaving but were supportive of her needs.

Adjournment of the meeting was at 9:13p.m. The next COA Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30p.m. It will be held in the temporary COA site located in the module behind the Belmont High School.

Respectfully Submitted:

Angela Santoro Mullin  
Revolving Recording Secretary