

BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes
September 10, 2007

Present: J. Semuels, H. Dvorak, E. Hamann, J. Horner, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee, B. Miranda, P. Solomon, A. Verrilli.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by J. Semuels, Chair.

A moment was taken to mourn the passing of Ann Howard, a long time activist at the stocktickerCOA , former Treasurer of the Friends of the stocktickerCOA, and dedicated advocate for a new senior center. It was suggested that board members might wish to give a donation to the Senior Center building fund in Ann's memory.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 2, 2007 meeting were accepted as read.

There were no senior citizen concerns brought forth.

Announcements: P. Solomon announced a trimming workshop to be held at the Chenery Middle School Courtyard on September 11, from 2:30-3:30.

B. Miranda informed the board that Representative Brownsberger's office is facilitating a meeting with DHCD representatives and Belmont Housing Authority representatives to discuss improving accessibility at Waverley Oaks Apartments.

Springwell. There was no Springwell meeting in August. Springwell has farmers' market coupons worth \$10 available to seniors eligible for fuel assistance or other income based state programs. The stocktickerCOA can provide transportation to the farmers' market in Belmont.

Director's Report. Belmont's new police chief has informed the director that the town is considering instituting reverse 911 capability. For slightly more in purchase price, an Are You OK system can be added. N. Niv Vogel is in favor of this program as it enhances the safety of at risk seniors. The stocktickerCOA would identify the at risk clients and obtains consent. Last year's social work intern began researching this kind of program.

The director reported that she and S. Cromwell have met with the town accountant to clarify the use of the revolving account, which increases as donations are deposited there. The town accountant has indicated that this fund may be used for any program of the stocktickerCOA. The director is considering using the fund for the final payment for the new van and for the volunteer luncheon and the holiday party. It was suggested that she get a statement from

the town accountant verifying that all programs may be funded from this account. The revenues deposited into the account cannot exceed \$50,000 annually.

The federally funded custodian will only be available until the end of December and after that the town may assign a few hours of town custodian time.

A new social work intern starts next week and will be at the senior center two days a week. She will continue the work started by the previous intern: the emergency planning group, helping the Friends of the stocktickerCOA, and updating the Social Service Directory.

THE stocktickerCOA had been paying the cost for overtime for a driver to take seniors to the Food Pantry on Saturdays, but the director has notified the food pantry that the cost is prohibitive and the stocktickerCOA cannot continue. A. Verilli said that she believes that the Housing Authority can pay for the driver and she will check into that.

The chronic disease management program will not take place this fall as the minimum number of 8 participants was not reached and no trainer was available. The director would like to hold a subcommittee meeting to plan what might be feasible for the spring.

No date has been set for the quilt presentation. It is presently on display at the Town Clerk's office. It is a gift from the stocktickerCOA Quilting Group to the Town of Belmont.

Senior Center Building Committee: Meetings are currently being held to quickly finish up the list of items flagged by town officials for discussion and then the project will go out to bid.

J. Semuels asked the director to check with the town administrator on whether or not the Archdiocese has to be notified now of the stocktickerCOA's intention to ask for a month to month extension of the lease next spring.

Friends of the stocktickerCOA: A. Lougee reported that there will be a membership drive soon, timed to coincide with the acceptance of a bid for the senior center so that news can be announced. The annual meeting will be held October 17 at 7:30 at the senior center. Another meat raffle and crafts fair are planned for November.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee (H. Dvorak, J. Kantor, and H. Kazarian) reported recommending the following officers for 2007-2008. Election will take place at the October meeting.

Chair: Joel Semuels
Vice Chair: Phyl Solomon

Treasurer: J. Horner

Minute-takers: J. Bruschi, H. Dvorak, E. Hamann, C. Hegarty, B. Miranda.

A brief discussion was held on the idea of enlarging the stocktickerCOA board. J. Semuels will research whether or not this would require a change in the town by-laws and a vote of town meeting.

Human Rights Commission: H. Dvorak reminded members of the board that she serves as liaison to the Human Rights Commission and members should let her know of any concerns they have in this area.

A brief discussion was held about the necessity to work at improving attendance at the Holiday party by perhaps changing the format to appeal to a wider group.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miranda
Minute taker