

- **MINUTES OF THE BELMONT COA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
- **September 14, 2009**

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- Present: E. Hamann, M. Cahalane, D. Dick, N., Hegarty, J. Kantor, H. Kazarian, A. Lougee, J. Morrison, A. Santoro Mullin, J. Semuels, P. Solomon, N. Niv-Vogel, Director

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

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- Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the July 13th meeting were reviewed and approved upon a motion and seconded without amendment.

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- Senior Citizen Concerns: None were mentioned at this time.

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- General Announcements: Topics such as the Opening of the Beech Street Center will be addressed later in the meeting.

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- Springwell Report: Ms. Solomon and Mr. Hegarty reported that a meeting at Springwell did not take place in August, and they have no news to report from July's meeting. But they did report that Springwell has been feeling some pressure because of its reduced budget, although it continues its managed intake. Mr. Semuels remarked that the Springwell web site is the best of all the Area Agencies on Aging in the state.

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- Director's Report: The Director reported that Springwell is taking on the Meals on Wheels program as of Monday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, with a staging area in Watertown. It will be serving 35 – 40 clients. This means that the relationship with Sancta Maria and all the bookkeeping involved with the program will have ended. Meals on Wheels volunteers can transfer their time to volunteer by helping at meal sites or take part in the "friendly visiting" program. Rather than send a letter of recognition and thanks to one of the volunteer deliverers, the Board agreed that a letter be sent to all of deliverers. Nava read John Bruschi's thank you letter to the Board.

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- The 2002 Belderbus is in need of \$2,500 worth of repairs. The COA will be using the smaller vehicle as transportation to in-town social events and out-of-town-medical appointments. Springwell cannot fill gaps in transportation services to our seniors, and in fact, they are seeking to lean on local transportation services more heavily. One of the major reasons is that Medical care has been relocated to more health care satellites, resulting in an increase in the number of ride destinations. Since the COA will also turn over its mealsite program to Springwell, Tony Messor, meal site host, is scheduled to be laid off at the end of the month. Unfortunately, Springwell is unable to offer him a position as meal-site host.

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- Operational Issues for New Senior Center: Michael Keogh resigned, which results in no custodial help for the new Beech Street Senior Center. A dirty facility raises all sorts of concerns including MRSA. Nava and the Board decided that once the building is occupied, this issue can be taken up with the Board of Selectmen, timed right before the budget season. Nava has not yet received word on the Pappas Foundation grant. The radio dispatch is equipment needed for a core service at the new Center – the present system cannot be adapted to the new building. Nava does not concur with the Buildings and Grounds Department's desire to purchase an expensive new lift, since she does not agree that either the COA or Center needs this piece of equipment.

The Board supports Nava in this view. Senior Center Building Committee: As of the date of this meeting, there is no fixed date for moving in to the new Senior Center, There remain many different issues such as punch list items and signed certifications. The generator has been removed from the site. According to Jim Staton the date for the Grand- Opening is still on for the weekend of Sept. 25-27. Ethel and Nava will know if this date is confirmed by Tuesday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. Those who have rsvp.ed for the Opening include the Secretary of Elder Affairs for Massachusetts, Anne Hartstein (sp). Sherry Jones, Ralph Jones' wife, and the Belmont Garden Club will be providing flowers for the Opening.

- Friends of COA: Anne Lougee reported that the Friends and members of the COA have divided into Working Groups in charge of invitations, decorations and food, publicity, etc. Fourteen hundred invitations have been sent so far. Ms. Lougee said that she also has cleared the date of Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> with the Town Administrator.

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- Budget Working Group: Neil Hegarty reported that this group will take its cues from Nava when the budget season comes around.

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- Old Business:

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- A) Joel Semuels, together with Phyl Solomon and Jack Kantor of the Nominating Committee, announced the new COA Officers for 2009-2010 : Ethel Hamann as Chair, Henry Kazarian as Vice Chair and Neil Hegarty as Treasurer. The Secretary for the meetings will continue to revolve for each meeting. This slate was voted upon and accepted by the Board.

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- B) News of The Beech Street Center Dedication Ceremony was reported by Anne Lougee. Karen Nichols already has trained volunteer tour guides. Dr. Paul Solomon will be the Master of Ceremonies. Unfortunately, Dan Le Clerc cannot attend. Ralph Jones will give the welcoming remarks, acknowledging Secretary Hartstein (sp?), Ethel Hamann as Chair of the COA, and Neil Hegarty for Belmont Elderly Citizens, Inc and Karen Pressey of the Senior Center Building Committee. This committee has met well over 128 times to date. Anne reported that folding chairs will be in one or two rows in front of the dais, for "dignitaries" including all past COA chairs and members, and there will be some chairs for guests who need to sit. High school students will serve as servers of the cake, cookies and drinks, and they may be dressed in their choral uniforms. Ms. Dick reported that the food, drinks and balloon planning is well underway (she is working with Ms. Lougee and Hildy Dvorak on this). The Center will be open to everyone in the community, with additional tours on Friday and Sunday for those not interested in attending the Dedication Ceremony. The hours for the events are:

- Friday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> Tours 12:00 noon – 4:00 PM

- Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> Tours 1:00 – 2:15 PM and approximately 3:30 - 5:00 PM

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- Dedication ceremony: 2:30 – 3:30 PM

- Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> Tours 1:00 – 4:00 PM

- The Bel Aires will perform. There will be a poster pointing out the green aspects of the building.

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- C) There has been an on-line poll posted by the Belmont Citizen Herald to identify those excited about the opening of the Senior Center, versus those who are not (with the results so far tilted toward the latter). Since many seniors do not go on-line, these results are

skewed. Anne Lougee mentioned that at the next meeting, the Board might discuss how it can improve the general view of the Center. The Board is reminded that discussions in the community should be kept positive.

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- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. The next COA Board Meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., in the new Senior Center building – room TBD.

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- Respectfully Submitted:

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- Diana Dick, Recording Secretary