

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN



*The Belmont Board of Selectmen enjoy reading a good book in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.*

*From left: Daniel C. Leclerc; Angelo Firenze, Chairman; Paul Solomon, Vice-Chairman*

The April annual town election brought a new face to the Board of Selectmen, as Daniel Leclerc was elected to the Board to fill the position vacated by William Brownsberger, after the latter's own election as Belmont's State Representative.

The Board also welcomed a new Police Chief. Richard McLaughlin, a Belmont resident and veteran of the Arlington Police, was hired by the Board after an extensive search process to lead the town's Police Department.

2007 saw the activity of 79 permanent and temporary committees with over 700 volunteer members. Two new temporary committees, the Capital Projects Overview Committee and the Community Preservation Act Study Committee, were appointed by the Selectmen in 2007 to address new issues facing the Town.

Liquor licenses became a hot topic in 2007 as the Board set about the task of selecting vendors for beer-and-wine and all-alcohol retail licenses after the voters of Belmont and the state Legislature approved the issuance of the licenses. The Board, together with the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee, held a public hearing to review the presentations of eight vendors who applied for licenses, and issued one license of each type, leaving one beer-and-wine license remaining to be issued. Interest in alcohol licenses for stores, as well as restaurants, continues.

A bit of Hollywood came to Belmont in the fall of 2007 when a Hollywood movie chose a local styling salon as the setting for a scene in a movie. Not only was the film company very pleased with how the town handled their production, they made a generous donation for the inconvenience. We look forward to and welcome more Hollywood "inconveniences!"

Issues related to the Town's real estate were central to the Board's discussions this year. Proposed development at the Uplands, finalizing the sale of the Harvard Lawn Fire Station for conversion to a home, planning of the new Senior Center, state acceptance of the Wellington School reconstruction project, and discussions about a new library were all covered at Board meetings. 2007 saw the dedication of the new Waverley Trail and the formal opening of the long-awaited Highland Meadow Cemetery on October 20, 2007 (see front cover).

During 2007, the Board of Selectmen covered a wide variety of topics at their meetings. Whether the topic is Emergency Management plans, roadway issues, elderly affairs, renewing licenses, discussing building issues, presenting commendations, insurance issues, Town policies, utilities, approving block parties, Town Meeting articles, or dealing with the complex town budget, the Selectmen strive to give each issue the attention that it deserves.

Town employees continue to serve the residents in a competent, efficient and professional manner. The Selectmen recognize all the daily challenges faced by the employees and thank them for keeping all aspects of town business moving along. The Selectmen particularly would like to thank their own small staff who work tirelessly in keeping them informed of resident concerns and issues that impact the town.

The list of issues goes on and on. We continue to make great strides in many areas, but are still aware of a very challenging future that changes at a rapid pace. Adaptability will be the key to designing and achieving our future goals. The decisions that we make in the coming years will have a great impact on those who come after us. We will continue to put into practice the principles and common goals outlined in the *Working Vision for Belmont's Future*. We look forward to being well guided toward making the right decisions to move Belmont successfully into the future.

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Angelo R. Firenze, Chairman  
Paul Solomon, Vice-Chairman  
Daniel C. Leclerc