

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes January 17, 2024

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Bea Mikulecky, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matt Weiss. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN goals and priorities 2024

- a. January focus: Build and retain membership.
 - i. Action steps we can take to build membership
 - ii. Convene social gatherings around education sessions with light refreshments.
 - iii. Consider events with/at Coolidge Corner Library.
 - iv. Spring education – Bea and Janet would work on a library event once date and topic set.
 - v. Hunneman Hall is one possibility at Village Library.
- b. Considered LCAC becoming LCAF (Forum).
 - i. Committee votes on positions which is not a forum.
 - ii. Perhaps it is a Forum held by LCAC. (LCAC Forum)
 - iii. Need to promote LCAC “events” if key speakers scheduled.
 - iv. Limited vehicles for news releases.
 - v. Good vehicle for involving people in BrooklineCAN.
 - vi. All Select Board candidates will be at next two meetings.
 - vii. Promote LCAC subjects in newsletter to attract people.
 - viii. Extensive discussion of advocacy, committee, forum.
 - ix. LCAC is a committee that votes but also a forum.
 - x. Not resolved but important discussion and will continue.
 - xi. Discussion re extensive minutes at LCAC.
- c. Matt & John to ask Sam Mintz to do an article on BrooklineCAN.

2. Candidates Forum 2024

- a. Question of co-sponsoring with League of Women Voters again?
 - i. Election May 7th so week of 4/8 or week of 4/13.
 - ii. Agreed to do this.
 - iii. Suggestion – 3 weeks prior to election if possible.
 - iv. Need to inform attendees about Town Moderator role.
- b. Roles
 - i. Connection with BIG – Matt Weiss.
 - ii. Contact with LWV – Carol Seibert.
 - iii. Moderator – ask Michael Allen.
 - iv. Decisions re offices to be represented and to what extent.

- v. Select Board, Town Moderator, Town Clerk, School Committee, et. al.
- vi. Publicity – Communications Committee.

3. BrooklineCAN Annual Meeting 2024

- a. Pick a date at February meeting.
 - i. More space between Brookline Day and the Annual Meeting.
- b. One idea – AARP speaker.

4. Brookline Day – Sunday, September 8, 2024

5. Update on Brookline’s AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (see link to article on employment)

- a. No report.

6. Communication issues – discussion of BrooklineCAN email responsibilities

- a. Emails for BrooklineCAN.
 - i. Admin@BrooklineCAN.org (John)
 - ii. Info@BrooklineCAN.org (Carol Caro, Ruth, Matt, Bea, Ruthann, Elenore)
 - iii. Links@BrooklineCAN.org (Ruth, John)
 - iv. Media_releases@BrooklineCAN.org (Elenore, John)
 - v. Membership@BrooklineCAN.org (Jude, Ruthann, John, Sandy, BrooklineCAN)
 - vi. Newsletter@BrooklineCAN.org (Carol Caro, Ruth, Matt, Bea, Ruthann)
 - vii. Payment@BrooklineCAN.org (Ruthann, John, Sonia)
 - viii. RSVP@BrooklineCAN.org (Ruthann, Jessica, John, Sonia)
 - ix. Webmaster@BrooklineCAN.org (John, Velda)
 - x. Whoever@BrooklineCAN.org (Ruthann)
- b. Info
 - i. John or Ruthann for most questions
- c. Sandy’s List
 - i. Ruthann
 - ii. John
 - iii. Remove David
 - iv. Remove Janet

7. JF&CS updates

- a. Renee Markus Hodin, Division Director, Services for Older Adults
- b. Sponsorship of Creative Art Programming for Brookline older adults
 - i. Ruth will do article in newsletter re grant.

8. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. ½ year salary to Sandy \$2,080

- b. \$250 contribution from new member.

9. Committee reports

- a. Membership
 - i. Need new ideas.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – (New energy costs assistance program for low income residents, new monthly podcast feature, et. al.) Suggested article on Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
 - ii. News Releases – LCAC promo.
 - iii. Website – No change except for front page, events and selected topics.
 - iv. AFC-TV – 2 shows (Sam Mintz tonight and Paul Warren is next week or week after).
 - v. Social Media – Senior Programming schedule from BIG and note warning re scam followers.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
 - i. Meeting on January 8, 2024 at 3PM via Zoom “A Conversation with Brookline School Committee Members”
 - ii. February 5th meeting – Select Board candidates David Pearlman and Alex Lebovitz.
 - iii. March 11th meeting – Select Board candidates Bernard Greene and Susan Park.
 - iv. Interesting meeting with School Committee candidates at January meeting with minutes to be distributed shortly.
- d. Education
 - i. Review of November 30, 2023 caregiver program

10. Old & new business

- a. Consider advocating Town to make up lost State funds (\$75K?)
- b. Consider questions for candidates.

11. Next Steering Committee: February 21, 2024 3pm

FYI: Interesting podcast on pedestrian safety:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/04/podcasts/the-daily/pedestrian-deaths.html>

[Americans & Retirement AARP Article Bill Armbruster.docx](#)

Goals for BrooklineCAN –FY24

1. Provide a forum for Brookline’s older adults to meet directly with Brookline’s government officials and candidates for town wide office in both large and small group settings.
2. Be an advocacy voice for the concerns of Brookline’s older adults to Town government decision makers and a recognized source of feedback for Brookline officials and groups seeking to know the views of Brookline’s older residents.
3. Provide volunteer opportunities for Brookline seniors wishing to use their skills and abilities to improve the lives of Brookline seniors and to make Brookline a better place to live.
4. Be a source of useful information about Town of Brookline events, programs, and news of special interest to Brookline older adults to encourage their engagement in the community and to counter social isolation.
5. Serve as a catalyst for the creation of new Town of Brookline governmental entities (such as the Pedestrian Advisory Committee), study committees (such as the Moderator’s Committee for Elderly Tax Relief), and programs.

BrooklineCAN Priorities 2024

(Based on discussion at 11/15/23 Steering Committee Meeting, Ruth Seidman)

Steering Committee

- Build and retain membership to strengthen the organization
 - reactivate the Membership Committee with co-chairs
 - encourage existing members to be more engaged
 - find ways of reaching out to those newly retired
 - continue to reach out to lapsed members
 - possible program or series of programs (maybe at the Library?) on The Many Faces of Retirement, financial planning, etc.
- Set up focus groups, making use of AARP Age-Friendly resources, to learn

of community needs and how BrooklineCAN could better meet these. Also a way of getting more people involved.

General for BrooklineCAN

- Identify areas for advocacy of specific Town issues as they arise, e.g.
 - Several; SC members, concerned with economic issues for middle income senior adults—how to address?
 - Washington Street Redesign project: need to keep enough parking for residents and their caregivers; survey needs?
 - Other issues
- Investigate ways to support specific pedestrian safety initiatives.
- Participate in supporting digital literacy of older adults, possibly in cooperation with the Library.
- Help alleviate elder isolation and loneliness.

Age-Friendly Cities Committee Priorities and Goals 2024

1. Available/affordable housing
2. Sidewalk Repairs
3. Street lighting
4. Availability/lack of in-home care
 - a. Extra costs on top of insurance and community charges for life care.
 - b. Issues with agency tracking of personal care workers.
 - c. Many issues with personal care funding.
5. Parking for caregivers
6. Benches
7. Older adult isolation
8. Scams