

June 21, 2023

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Carol Seibert, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matt Weiss, Sonia Wong.
Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Formal acceptance of Nominating Committee's slate (see Nominating Committee report in May 17 meeting minutes)

- a. Motion to accept unanimously passed.
- b. Melissa Trevvett recognized for her service by Ruth.
 - i. Consider recognition of Melissa at Annual Meeting.
- c. New person on the Steering Committee is Bea Mikulecky.
 - i. Ruth will notify Bea.

2. Update on Brookline's AARP Age-Friendly application

- a. AARP Grant Award -In June 2023, The Brookline Senior Center was awarded a Community Building Grant from the AARP of Massachusetts to support outreach on transportation options and resources in the community. This project will provide transportation for low to moderate income residents including seniors to two important community events. Finally, a community survey and focus groups on the transportation needs of the community will be conducted.
 - i. Excellent press for the CoA and the Town.
- b. Encore Boston Network's *New Age-Friendly Employers Guide*
<https://encorebostonnetwork.org/content.aspx?pageid=722&clubid=941588&emtid=223678429964&mtid=521551425866&ht=0>
 - i. Review and relate to AFB activities of BrooklineCAN.
- c. AARP application approved by Select Board and letter follows.
 - i. Ruthann will prepare and submit letter from Select Board.

3. BrooklineCAN priorities discussion

- a. David – Differentiate between Steering Committee priorities vs. BrooklineCAN priorities for Brookline. (Discussion followed)
 - i. Larger picture and priorities of the organization.
 - ii. Retreat in January 2021 was along these lines.
 - iii. Consider adding into regular agenda for focus.
 - iv. Education, LCAC advocacy, information dissemination, transportation, complete streets, networking, other?
- b. Carol – Difficulty relating BrooklineCAN, CoA and AFCC.
- c. Matt – Relation to difference from Beacon Hill Village concept.
- d. Next month's agenda will include further discussion.

4. Discussion of BrooklineCAN Annual Meeting set for Thursday, September 7, 2023

- a. Next steps for Steering Committee
 - i. Planning meeting scheduled for Thursday July 6th at 2pm.
 - ii. John will set up registration by email but needs a “catcher”.
 - iii. Exhibitors confirmed are Coolidge Corner Theater waiting on Matt’s confirmation of Booksmith and Health Department.
 - iv. Waiting on CoC confirmation.
 - v. Decided to name awards in Frank Caro’s name.
- b. Speakers confirmed: Sigalle Reiss and Candace Cramer.
 - i. Per Ruthann Candace Cramer President and CEO of Goddard is confirmed.
- c. Theme confirmed: “Reemerge and Reengage”
 - i. Will hyphenate “Re-emerge and Re-engage”
 - ii. Add: “How to thrive in a post-pandemic world”
- d. Discussion of food/beverage
 - i. Confirm budget
- e. Entertainment secured – Brookline High School Jazz Band
 - i. Per John Seay band is scheduled.
- f. Timeline
 - i. Save the date and Newsletter announcement to be finalized.
 - ii. To be in BrooklineCAN and CoA newsletters.
 - iii. Date for press release not yet determined.
 - iv. Material for the program to be supplied to Henry. (See announcement at next meeting re Henry)
- g. Review of meeting on 5/16
- h. Invitation/ Save-the-Date needs to be sent out
 - i. Communications will post it in July.
 - ii. Janet and Henry to create flyer (See new meeting re Henry)
 - iii. Need pictures of both speakers.
 - iv. Registration info not necessary in July material.

5. Advocacy efforts regarding property tax exemption

- a. Planned \$110,000 assets considered too low.
 - i. Proposed to use Sudbury model of \$750,000.
 - ii. Advocacy by CoA and BrooklineCAN resulted in Select Board using the Sudbury model!
 - iii. Paul Warren reminded all that seniors should be consulted when actions are taken that directly affect them.
- b. Next exemption/relief will be related to water and sewer taxes.
 - i. Monitor/be aware of related actions/plans.

6. Brookline Day – Sept. 10, 2023. Will remain in Coolidge Corner

- a. No discussion required just keep it in mind.

7. Farmer's Market opportunity on Thursday, August 17

- a. Decided not to participate.

8. Treasurers report (John)

- a. Few expenses.
- b. \$250 contributions from individual and Provident House.
 - i. Direct result of letters sent to lapsed members.
- c. Positive fiscal year (Note no annual meeting last year)

9. Committee reports

- a. Membership
 - i. Invite all Select Board to become BrooklineCAN members.
 - ii. Material from BrooklineCAN should encourage membership.
 - iii. BrooklineCAN members impact Brookline re older adult issues not directly supply benefits to members.
 - iv. Pedestrian Advisory Committee from BrooklineCAN advocacy.
 - v. Ask people for their issues then to join and work them,
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter (Ruth) – July/August (Summer) issue.
 - ii. News Releases – Bea Mikulecky taking lead. Bea produces books and videos columns in newsletter.
 - iii. Website – John will add Steering Committee member list.
 - iv. AFC-TV – Chas Carey is next guest June 29th) followed by Jen Paster.
- c. Livable Communities
 - i. Review of June 12 meeting by Carol.
 - ii. First guest, Amanda Hirst, surprised group by describing the wide variety of items available for loan from the Library. Library exceeded totals of circulation from before COVID. 2024 goals include further outreach through community groups especially older adult groups. New Librarian for Coolidge Corner branch Guy Harris is very interested in older adult issues and has joined AFCC and Tech Buddies. Bookmobile planned to reach out to community.
 - iii. Second guest was Tax Assessor Rachid Belhocine. Reported on senior means tax exemption. Described who qualifies and process. Examples in LCAC notes.
 - iv. Susan Granoff provided a report on Town Meeting. Very successful and in person first time since COVID.
 - v. Next meeting is September 11th at 3pm.
- d. Education

- i. Rob Schwartz presents THE WISDOM OF MORRIE, Wednesday, September 20 at 1pm at the Senior Center.
- ii. Recommended that we read the book.

10. Old & new business

- a. Youthscapers service from Teen Center (see attached flyer).
 - i. Do landscaping and other tasks for a fee.
 - ii. Ruthann will investigate further re Town landscaping such as sidewalk clearing.

11. Next meeting: July 19, August 16

- a. Please let Ruth or Ruthann know if you will not be able to attend.
- b. Meetings will be held in any case due to Annual Meeting and Brookline Day in early September.