

November 15, 2023

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

1. Postpone discussion of BrooklineCAN priorities until October

- a. Continue conversation of elevator speech
 - i. Next meeting.
- b. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN's goals (see Susan Granoff's document)
 - i. Agreed to use the document prepared by committee and documented by Susan Granoff.
 - ii. Publicize recommitment to goals in newsletter after this one.
 - iii. Discussion took place re minor changes suggested.
 - iv. Separate Steering Committee goals from BrooklineCAN goals.
- c. Discussion of BrooklineCAN priorities vs. Steering Committee priorities
 - i. Steering – Membership growth and retention (Primary).
 - ii. Steering – Reach out to broader spectrum of older adults.
 - iii. Steering – Work to involve newly retired (Consider Library as venue for events, “long term care” event, and “ducks in a row” for retirement event).
 - iv. Steering – Work to involve Town officials and TMMs in BrooklineCAN.
 - v. Steering – Investigate participation in AARP focus groups.
 - vi. BrooklineCAN – Reengaging/combat social isolation.
 - vii. BrooklineCAN – Advocacy (Housing affordability for middle and lower income people, investigating methods to improve pedestrian issues).
 - viii. BrooklineCAN – Digital literacy groups perhaps with Library.
 - ix. BrooklineCAN – Need for data collection re pedestrian needs.
 - x. Note – Recommendation that members attend 12/11 Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting.
 - xi. Note – Ruth will send list of priorities prior to next meeting.
(See below)

2. Update on Brookline's AARP Age-Friendly application – Brookline accepted Friday September 8, 2023 in AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

- a. Livability index scores by community:
 - <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>
 - i. Application was accepted – review livability categories.
 - ii. Housing (availability and affordability).
 - iii. Neighborhood (proximity and security).
 - iv. Transportation (safety and convenience).
 - v. Environment (clean air and water).
 - vi. Health (prevention and access).
 - vii. Engagement (civic and social development).
 - viii. Opportunity (inclusion and possibilities).
 - ix. Outdoor (spaces and buildings).
 - x. Check out age-friendly business section.
- b. ReiMAGine Aging podcast spotlights age-friendly Massachusetts work: <https://mahealthyagingcollaborative.org/reimagine-aging/> a new podcast that centers community voices telling community stories launched in October. This is a creative approach to reporting on initiatives in the Commonwealth—from digital equity programs and walk audits to programs promoting purpose and connection, food security, housing, and economic health for older adults. At the Nov 14 Age-Friendly meeting, discussion of planting trees, better sidewalks, affordable housing were some livable action items for Brookline.
 - i. Discuss next month.

3. Review of current property tax programs and participants

- a. Moved to 12/20/2023 meeting.

4. Treasurers report (John)

- a. 18 donations including one for \$1,000.
- b. Expenses limited to newsletter costs.
- c. Next month major expense of ½ year of Sandy’s salary.
- d. Members at 213 about half of all-time high.

5. Committee reports

- a. Membership
 - i. Needs a chair.
 - ii. Janet would co-chair given a chair is named.
 - iii. John is involved and interested in membership not lead.
 - iv. Ruthann is last resort re information re membership.
 - v. Ruth is also source of membership information.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – Bea reported (1 item about issue that concerns Town and this month is charter campaign and links to LWV).
 - ii. News Releases – No report.

- iii. Website – John reported (worked on Google search results for BrooklineCAN and improved results).
- iv. AFC-TV – John reported (Mike Sandman is current guest, suggestion from committee is to invite Bernard Greene, next two guests are Paul Warren and Sam Mintz).
- v. Social Media – Matt reported (Senior programming schedule weekly on Facebook and Twitter via link to BrooklineCAN website, picture of Senior Center is usually BrooklineCAN).
- c. Livable Communities – Carol reported.
 - i. Meeting was Monday – day before Town Meeting started.
 - ii. Paul Warren presented the MBTA-CA Consensus plan.
 - iii. Linda Pehlke spoke on the M plan.
 - iv. Susan Granoff spoke on the Referral Harvard Street plan.
 - v. Outcome was approval of the Consensus plan with the M and Referral defeated.
 - vi. Well-timed presentation educating LCAC attendees/TMMs.
 - vii. Next meeting is January 8, 2024 with December break.
 - viii. January subject matter not yet published (TBD)
- d. Education
 - i. No report.

6. Old & new business

- a. None.

7. Next Steering Committee: December 20, 2023 3pm

(See BrooklineCAN Priorities on next page)

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 Bicycle Lane 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..