

September 20, 2023

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

1. Review of Annual Meeting on September 7, 2023

- a. Immediate response was that it was a fabulous meeting.
- b. Attendance – 86 people in the building – number of no-shows due to the hot weather.
- c. Reactions re Membership table.
 - i. Carol – Need a computer setup at Membership table.
 - ii. Carol – Known person should be at the membership table.
 - iii. Bea – Need larger sign for Membership table.
 - iv. Bea – Perhaps it should be near the door.
 - v. Need outlet that works at Membership table.
- d. General reactions.
 - i. Yolanda – Name tags were wonderful. Susan – People seemed really happy to be attending.
 - ii. Kudos to planning committee.
 - iii. Special kudos to Julie and Jamie.
 - iv. File-of-Life kits were well received (20 year old program at Senior Center)
 - v. Susan – Consider later date not close to Brookline Day.
 - vi. Noisy in coffee room where tables located.
 - vii. Conversation was difficult for some not for others.
 - viii. Note – Jazz band was not amplified.
 - ix. Matt – Will remind BIG to air the recording.
- e. Food and Refreshments.
 - i. Food was fine and was as expected.
 - ii. Low on food – so need to increase amount next year.
 - iii. Add 50% to estimated number of attendees.
- f. Considerations for future Annual Meetings
 - i. Date.
 - ii. Noise levels.
 - iii. Might want to return LCAC in Room 103.

2. Review of Brookline Day – September 10, 2023

- a. Rain did not deter crowds – great turnout.
- b. Leaking Senior Center tent was handled.
 - i. BrooklineCAN tent though older was leak proof.
- c. Location was excellent and weights on tent was excellent.
 - i. Got to talk to people.

- ii. Provided assistance to many.
 - d. Needed to identify roles and contact numbers.
- 3. Postpone discussion of BrooklineCAN priorities until October**
 - a. September: Development of elevator speech to communicate the purpose and scope of BrooklineCAN
 - b. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN's goals (see Susan Granoff's document)
 - c. Discussion of BrooklineCAN priorities vs. Steering Committee priorities
- 4. Farmer's Market opportunity on Thursday, October 5, 2023**
 - a. CoA Senior Center will be at a table.
 - b. BrooklineCAN can be there.
 - c. BrooklineCAN literature there for distribution and discussion.
- 5. Update on Brookline's AARP Age-Friendly application – Brookline accepted Friday September 8, 2023 in AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities**
 - a. Accepted into AARP age-friendly list of communities.
 - b. Communications Committee should prepare promotions.
 - i. AARP information added to the BrooklineCAN website.
 - ii. Massachusetts AARP head is possible speaker for next Annual Meeting.
- 6. Treasurers report (John)**
 - a. Negative month – Annual meeting, Sandy, admin expenses.
 - b. Annual meeting much less – lower food costs and donation of anonymous benefactor.
- 7. Committee reports**
 - a. Membership
 - i. Newsletter asked for Chair of Membership Committee.
 - b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – 90 print mail newsletters (many for JF&CS members without email) now less than 30 print mailed; print many newsletters for handouts (effective).
 - ii. News Releases – Brookline Patch and Brookline.News only news release targets (Globe never responds); suggested that BIG also be news release target for PSAs; suggested Town Administrator newsletter be a news release target; send recommendations for targets to Bea. Civic Beacon? CivicBrookline.org?
 - iii. Website – Added graphics re AARP.
 - iv. AFC-TV – Chief Paster 9/27 (Episode 42) and Mike Sandman 10/5 (Episode 43).

- v. Social Media – Two accounts (Facebook & X); suggested Instagram routines such as dodging scooters on sidewalks); do not intentionally publish political items on BrooklineCAN and on Facebook BrooklineCAN group. All Town material. Anyone can publish to BrooklineCAN group. Send links to Matt for articles/media to publish of BrooklineCAN accounts. Discussion of pay walls and subscriptions.
- c. Livable Communities
 - i. Well-attended meeting 9/11 – emergency preparedness.
 - ii. File-of-Life, Go Bag,
 - iii. David presented info on micro-mobility proposed regs.
 - iv. Next meeting – 10/16 re warrant articles re older adults.
 - v. Water and sewer related to older adults.
 - vi. Senior Tax Workoff program.
 - vii. Full Advisory Committee hearings – 10/10.
 - viii. Less than 18 warrant articles – some controversial.
- d. Education
 - i. Rob Schwartz presents THE WISDOM OF MORRIE, Wednesday, September 27 at 1pm at the Senior Center.
 - ii. David and Janet – Volunteered to work front table.
 - iii. David – Black bag to Senior Center for BrooklineCAN stuff.

8. Old & new business

- a. 9/27 – Charter change forum in evening on Zoom (impact?).
- b. 9/28 – Create Charter Moderators committee on Zoom.
- c. Monitor rent stabilization discussions.

9. Next Steering Committee: October 18, 2023 3pm

Attachment – Susan Granoff List of Goals

1. Provide a forum for Brookline’s seniors to meet directly with Brookline’s government officials and candidates for townwide office in both large and small group settings.
2. Be an advocacy voice for the concerns of Brookline’s seniors 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 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 seniors and other topics of interest to Brookline seniors.
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.

Matt Note: May substitute “older adults” for “seniors”.