

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Notes April 15, 2020

Attendees:

Frank Caro, John Seay, Ruthann Dobek, Ruth Seidman, Elenore Parker, Matt Weiss, David Trevvett, Susan Granoff, Katherine Burnes.

1. Note Taker Matt Weiss

2. Election Forum/Town Election

- a. Rescheduled for Thursday May 21st at 2pm as a livestream on Zoom from BIG with Michael Allen as moderator and Matt Weiss as timekeeper and question asker.
- b. Questions will be submitted before rather than during the forum.
- c. Require promotion before forum to collect a good set of questions.
- d. Debt exclusion may not be on the ballot.
- e. Focus on issues for older adults.
- f. Election has been rescheduled for June 9th, 2020.
- g. Send out recording of forum and put on website in May-June.

3. BrooklineCAN interest in Welltower articles on Town Meeting agenda

- a. Per Frank Caro
 - i. BrooklineCAN LCAC needs to attend to related articles and take a position.
 - ii. Committee needs to determine how to reach out for an LCAC meeting on the articles with help of Senior Center.
 - iii. May result in funds to expand and rehabilitate the Colonel Floyd housing site.
 - iv. Note: LCAC voted on May 11 to support Articles 9 to -12.

4. Effects of Town shut down on participants in property tax work-off program

- a. Per Ruthann Dobek
 - i. Relief needed in relation to the number of hours required for tax workoff due to library and Senior Center closing/furlough.
 - ii. Deidre Waxman and Ruthann will determine the numbers and do an "ask" for relief to Assessors and Select Board.
 - iii. Strategies will be prepared to accomplish the relief.

5. Potential CDBG Funds for Senior Center video programming

- a. Town will receive additional funding for Covid-19 relief.
- b. CDBG is aware of the needs of older adult projects including needs of veterans and emerging food insecurity.
- c. Turnaround time for spending is critical.
- d. Need to respond to HELP requests, e.g., veterans needing food.

6. Informing BrooklineCAN members about role of HELP program during pandemic

- a. HELP matches volunteers with needs (contact Jamie Jensen).
- b. Consider use of a "listserv" using Google Groups. Matt Weiss was selected to explore possibility.
- c. Long term home programs matching older adults with workers.
- d. For example, responding to shopping requests, leaks, et. al.
- e. SHOP program suspended and people are moved to Brookline Mutual Aid (and Project Driveway).

7. BrooklineCAN role in keeping public informed during pandemic

- a. May newsletter is preceded by a special issue related to the coronavirus and older adults.
- b. Susan Granoff noted a Washington Post article on the CARES Act by Jamie Jensen which she will forward to Elenore Parker and Ruth Seidman.
- c. Ruthann Dobek indicated Senior Center staff is currently okay and Patricia Burns is getting volunteers and sending volunteers to Springwell.
- d. Per Elenore the Communications Committee will inform people of existing programs noting BrooklineCAN does not run the programs.

8. Informing the public about option for deferral of real estate tax payments

- a. May 1 tax payments may be delayed to June 1 without penalty.
- b. Can request a delay of up to three months without penalties.
- c. Can request a three month up to delay in mortgage payments.
- d. Information piece should go out now.

9. Other potential BrooklineCAN activities during pandemic

- a. Education includes a rescheduled session by Ailene Gerhardt.
- b. Zoom article in the newsletter and CoA news article on Zoom.
- c. Annual meeting potentially on Zoom could include breakout rooms and speakers.

10. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Low expenses and low income but nothing alarming to report.
- b. Low numbers of renewals.

11. Committee reports

- a. Communications
 - i. March – Special issue of the newsletter was published.
 - ii. April – Issue will be published on time.
 - iii. May – Working on the newsletter.
 - iv. No other plans for a special issue.
 - v. Email blasts related to Covid-19 will be issued as needed.

- vi. John Seay reported the website pointed to the Town and the Senior Center information about the coronavirus.
 - vii. John Seay added a link to Julie Washburn's programming during this period.
 - b. Education (Ruth Seidman and Ruthann Dobek)
 - i. Considering Zoom replacements for sessions.
 - c. Livable community
 - i. Planning election forum.
 - ii. Plan to convene a meeting on the Welltower articles.
 - iii. Age Friendly Cities Committee is inactive at this time.
- 12. New business**
- a. AFC-TV has no immediate shows planned due to the pandemic.
 - b. Article on past shows of AFC-TV.
 - c. Lapsed member discussion – keep standard format.
 - d. Discussed possible Google Groups for BrooklineCAN and Matt and John will report at next meeting.
 - e. Send out specific topics for discussion.
- 13. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 3pm.**