

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

June 15, 2016

Attendance: Peter Ames, Lisa Berger, Ruthann Dobek, Marsha Frankel, Susan Krinsky, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss

Annual meeting September 15. Len Fishman is the keynote speaker, and the two community service awards will go to Gary McCabe (Town assessor) and Roger Blood (long-time chair of the housing advisory board). The event will be held from 5-7 at the Senior Center.

Visit from Waltham delegation. At the June 14 meeting, seven representatives from Waltham met with eight members of our Steering Committee to discuss what BrooklineCAN is, how it works, and what challenges Waltham might face in creating a similar group. Diverse communities within the city of Waltham offer challenges in pulling a group together there. Matt distributed a list of email addresses to everyone who attended.

Ruthann asked Marsha to review the background of the founding of BrooklineCAN, and she spoke about the 2008-09 grant from the Weinberg foundation to JF&CS to create a project for seniors aging in place in far north Brookline. They focused on connecting people to services, sponsoring “warm houses,” and hiring “hassle busters” who handled installation of air conditioners, storm windows, rearranging kitchens, computers, and so forth.

Volunteer update. The volunteer database is moving forward, and Frank Caro has invited Alberta Lipson to join the Steering Committee; she has accepted.

Treasurer’s Report. As of June 13, our income was \$11,670, compared to expenses of \$12,506, leaving us \$836 in deficit for the fiscal year which ends June 30. Pre-payment of the salary for the Membership Assistant – a new expense this year – explains the discrepancy. We have a reserve of \$19,915, which is very healthy. It was suggested that we invite Susan Halpert to a Steering Committee meeting. Her work has been good, and her willingness to ask questions is much appreciated.

TRIPPS. The second program on driving retirement is June 16, featuring panelists sharing their experience of giving up driving. The advisory group meets June 30. So far, we have heard nothing about renewed funding for a second year.

Education. The July 11 session on Social Security is 6-9 p.m. at the Senior Center. Future events include “Reel in the Closet” October 19 at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. We are working with the LBGTQI organization at Brookline High School on the event. Before the film, a reception with director Stu Maddox is planned for the Senior Center.

Membership. Today, there are 369 active members, down eight from May and up 26 compared to June 2015. We also have 245 former members (any member whose renewal date is past). We are

sending letters in July to former members whose renewal dates fell prior to May 1st this year. We are still waiting for the new brochures.

Communications. The July/August issue of the newsletter will be emailed June 30 to about 900 recipients. Thirty copies are mailed to members and some copies are delivered to Goddard House and other locations. News releases are going out on the July 11 educational program and on the park at James & Green streets. Our BrooklineCAN.org website is moving to another area of GoDaddy, a change that will be transparent to users. The newsletter will add a “Follow us on Twitter” link.

Professional Service Providers Group (PSPG). Patty Servaes spoke June 9 about veterans’ benefits.

Repairs / Referrals. John spoke with a potential volunteer, Renny Harrigan, about creating something that will work, perhaps a list of “recommended by members” vendors along with the existing “what to check when you hire a contractor” guidelines. She had reached out after seeing the statement on the website about the list being out of date because of a lack of volunteers.

Steering committee. As of June 30, terms end for Peter Ames and Carol Caro. Ruthann will make sure they are properly acknowledged for their service at the annual meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 20, at 3:00 PM. Future meetings (all third Wednesdays at 3) are August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21.

Notes prepared by Molly Turkish