

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

June 18, 2014

Attendance: Laura Baber, Kathy Burnes, Carol Caro, Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Michelle LaPointe, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, and Molly Turlish.

Nominating committee report. The slate of officers and representatives was presented and accepted unanimously, as follows:

Co-Chairs: Frank Caro and Ruthann Dobek

Vice-Chair: Molly Turlish

Treasurer: Karen Zweig

Representative from Council on Aging: Peter Ames

Founding Partners: Kathy Burnes (JF&CS), Laura Baber (HSL), John Moniz (Goddard House)

At Large: Elenore Parker (term ending 2016), John Seay (term ending 2015), Matt Weiss (term ending 2016), Ruth Seidman (Term ending 2015)

Committee Representatives: Carol Caro (Communications), Molly Turlish (Membership), Ruthann Dobek (Education and Repair and Referral), Frank Caro (Livable Community Advocacy and Age-Friendly), Michelle LaPointe (Professional Service Providers)

A representative of the Board of the Senior Center will be invited later when an appropriate person is identified. Michelle and Ruth introduced themselves to the rest of the committee.

Preparation of annual report/factsheet. Kathy will request material from each committee (purpose and membership, accomplishments for 2013-14, etc.) by sometime in July. The report/factsheet will include information about members (number, donors at sponsoring levels, etc.) and will be distributed at the Annual Meeting September 17.

Proposals for projects funded by BrooklineCAN. We have set aside some funds in the FY15 budget to support worthy projects related to our mission. Several ideas were discussed. BrooklineCAN is currently providing a small amount of funding to support the Complete Streets forum.

Annual meeting September 17 (Wednesday). Brookline's Age-Friendly Initiative will be the focus, and invitations have gone out to town departments. Save-the-date emails have been sent to members with emails on file. The planning committee mentioned a need for publicity.

September meeting of the Steering Committee was rescheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 3-4:30 pm to avoid conflicting with the annual meeting.

Town Meeting. BrooklineCAN was more active than usual in this year's Town Meeting, and we were successful with a number of articles, including property tax deferral, maintaining the possibility of detached accessory dwelling units on large single-family properties, and enforcing snow clearance from sidewalks. The sidewalks warrant article passed, in spite of opposition from the Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen, and the Town Manager is appointing a Committee, which will include Frank and another representative of BrooklineCAN. A proposal for a part-time, temporary volunteer program for renters led to the Advisory Committee being open to adding funding for a \$10,000 pilot program in November. This will be set up as a part-time employment program. Among the half of all Brookline seniors who are renters, those qualifying would be eligible to receive a \$1,000 stipend in exchange for 125 hours of work.

Complete Streets Forum June 12 sprang from the work of the Livable Communities Advocacy Committee, and BrooklineCAN was a lead sponsor along with the Green Caucus (of Town Meeting Members). The Complete Streets program gives us an opportunity to work cooperatively with bicycle enthusiasts and in partnership with at least a half-dozen organizations. We distributed brochures and asked people to join BrooklineCAN on their way into the forum.

Membership. Molly announced that we had 274 active (i. e., paid) members. New membership brochures were distributed, and reply envelopes are at the printers. Committee members are phoning former members whose renewal date falls in December 2013 to April 2014. Molly is working with Judith Kidd on meetings for members, and they hope to announce the first of them at the annual meeting.

Communications. The committee is seeking articles for the Senior Center newsletter. A "boiler plate" description has been developed that will be printed any month there is not another article. Molly asked Ruth to share the boiler plate with other members of the Steering Committee, in order to come closer to speaking with a single voice. Bea Mikulecky is now working with Elenore on media relations, and Carol announced that the electronic version of the newsletter goes to about 900 people. The lists of Town Meeting Members, etc. who originally were added to the newsletter list have not been updated, and Carol will work on that.

Professional Service Providers Group meets every other month, the most recent meeting was at Goddard House for networking.

Education. Nutritional Supplements for Optimal Aging is scheduled for Hunneman Hall at the Main Library, October 15, 6-8:30 pm. The speaker is Dr. James Greenblatt, a psychiatrist from Harvard. In March, a program on sex is planned, and a speaker from MIT's Age Lab will be scheduled in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees at the May 15 panel on Elder Care were surveyed to find out how they found out about the program. Molly asked that the findings be shared.

Finance. Our finances are in good shape. We are continuing the pattern of using the surplus from two years earlier as the beginning point of the budget for the new fiscal year. Thus, the FY 2013 surplus of \$4,994 provides the foundation of the FY 2015 budget, which goes into effect July 1. Funding for FY15 also includes \$2,000 surplus from FY 2012 and the estimated income from 270 members, for a total of \$13,744.

Repairs and Referrals. The committee has a new member, a retired contractor. In October, the committee will present a program on pests (from bats to rats) at the Senior Center.

Age Friendly. Boston has been named a WHO Age-Friendly City, the second municipality in New England to join. By meeting with Emily Shea, Boston's Commissioner for Elder Affairs, Frank learned that AARP reached out to Boston after Mayor Walsh intention to apply. AARP is providing technical assistance and opportunities to network with other cities in the program. Boston's initiative will start with a two-year needs assessment. Jan Mutchler, a demographer from UMass Boston is the lead researcher. A staff member from the Commissioner's office is assigned to the project. The Steering Committee suggests inviting Commissioner Shea, her staff member, and an AARP representative to our annual meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 16 at 3:00 PM

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish