

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes November 19, 2025

Attendees: Marilyn Benson, Carol Caro, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevett, Matthew Weiss, Emily Williams, Sonia Wong. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Review of 2025 Priorities

- a. Participate in COA Director transition.
 - i. Full support for COA, Senior Center and Emily.
 - ii. Not listed as a separate priority for 2026 – Folded in.
 - iii. Emily will keep us informed of needs for support.
- b. Support more funding for COA and Senior Center as senior population grows and needs increase.
 - i. Look for as many non-Federal grants as possible.
 - ii. Recommended to explore Hale Foundation grants.
 - iii. Warrant Article (WA-13) was approved 229-1.
 - iv. Carol & Ruth represented BrooklineCAN, Matt represented the AFCC and Fran Perler represented the COA.
 - v. Asked Town to keep Senior Center in mind as decisions are made re the Fisher Hill property.
 - vi. Fran presented and Ruth spoke next in favor.
 - vii. Liz Linder spoke in favor for the Advisory Committee.
 - viii. Bernard Greene spoke in favor for the Select Board.
 - ix. Even “pool people” spoke in favor.
 - x. Ruth listed the committee presentations and approvals.
 - xi. Spread the name of BrooklineCAN as a result of WA-13.
 - xii. Follow up needed to achieve funding.
 - xiii. Note Janet Gelbart on COA and Oversight Committee is a strong supporter of BrooklineCAN and WA-13 – Thank her.
 - xiv. **Emily – Add to 1.b. UMass Boston Gerontology Needs Assessment as directly affects more funding for Senior Center.**
 - xv. **Should be a separate priority for BrooklineCAN.**
 - xvi. **Need info for February BrooklineCAN Newsletter and press release for January from Emily to Carol.**
 - xvii. **Consider an AFC-TV Episode re the Needs Assessment.**
- c. Candidates Forum
 - i. Need new person to take lead.
 - ii. Key activity for BrooklineCAN.
 - iii. Usually in April as a joint LWV and BrooklineCAN event.
 - iv. Note – Possibly include Override in the Forum which has Senior Center funding included.

- d. Annual Meeting
 - i. Priority to rethink how to do the Annual Meeting.
 - ii. New ways to approach it and timing.
 - iii. Choose speaker who would draw attendees.
- e. Participate in offering educational other events and speakers.
 - i. See renaming of this priority (Program Committee?).
 - ii. Consider “right to die” as a topic/session.
- f. Continue efforts to engage and build membership; clarify role of the organization and communicate it
 - i. Consider Membership Drive and/or a “Program Committee”.
 - ii. Need to form a committee.
- g. Seek to revitalize Age-Friendly Business Program
 - i. Carol reported that Sonia has volunteered for the program.
 - ii. Two people responded to newsletter ads for the program.
 - iii. Idea – Start with new businesses in Town.
 - iv. Need help/advice from people who worked on AFB project.
- h. Explore more community partnerships and sponsors
 - i. Founding partners need reactivating.
 - ii. FriendshipWorks?
 - iii. Medical Escort services (Senior Center).
 - iv. Exploratory discussions to determine if there are issues/projects that we can work on jointly.
- i. Going forward – think about priorities/goals with specificity.
 - i. Marketing – Rebrand as working on issues for older adults (over 50 per AARP).
 - ii. Membership – Consider sending questionnaire to members indicating project and committee needs.
 - iii. Emily – Consider question on Needs Assessment Survey re awareness and view of BrooklineCAN.
 - iv. **Send ideas for questions on the survey to Emily.**

2. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Expenses
 - i. Regular printing expenses.
- b. Contributions
 - i. Only 4 payments for renewals or new members.
 - ii. Not enough to be sustaining (will do analysis going forward).

- c. Recommend raising Sandy's hours to 6 from 4 per week.
 - i. Enable Sandy to take on projects.
 - ii. Excellent performer per Emily and John.
 - iii. John will send Sandy's job description to the committee.
 - iv. Discussion re job versus numbers of members.
 - v. Emily – Ask Sharon Devine to distribute newsletter to CCB.
- d. **Vote unanimously approved increase to 6 hours.**

3. Committee Reports – Status of Committees and Projects

- a. Membership (Marilyn Benson)
 - i. Ruth – Sent thank you note to person who donated \$500.
 - ii. Ruth – Suggest BrooklineCAN Beacon ad on membership.
 - iii. Carol will prepare the ad with input from Marilyn and Ruth.
- b. Communications (Carol Caro)
 - i. Newsletter – Need new series following environmental, transportation and “people” series. (Ruth and next Matt)
 - ii. News releases – Beacon ad drew 2 people to help with AFB.
 - iii. AFC-TV – Set a record with 7 or 8 shows in 2025. @ shows taped Episode 56 on Tuesday (Brookline Food Pantry – Elizabeth Boen) and Episode 57 on Monday (OEM – Cheryl Ann Snyder).
- c. LCAC – (Susan Granoff)
 - i. No report in Susan's absence.

4. Old and New Business

- a. Moment of Silence – Meeting began by observing a moment of silence for recent tragedies (9 Gibb Street killing, Brown University and others in the nation).
- b. Moderator's committee on nuisance lighting.
 - i. David is a member and represents the interests of pedestrian safety.
 - ii. David will provide an article for February newsletter by 1/19.
 - iii. All – Follow the committee as it progresses.

5. Next Steering Committee meeting: January 21, 2026 at 3 PM