

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes December 18, 2024

Attendees: Marilyn Benson, Carol Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Bea Mikulecky, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Melissa Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Sonia Wong.
Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Confirm it is ok to order new pop-up tent

- a. Approved: Unanimous.

2. Priorities

Continuing from our brainstorming session summary that we distributed last month and is attached to this agenda, we would like to discuss and choose one item from each of two lists:

- a. Doing what we do better or resuming programs that have become inactive, and
 - i. Ways to revitalize membership (volunteers for events).
 - ii. Bea – Refocus on an Annual Meeting in the fall (well-known speaker, bring in people to work on it, 15 year anniversary?).
 - iii. Janet – Small event in spring related to new Director of Senior Center (space out with CoA fundraiser, consider March with transportation).
 - iv. Ruthann – Candidate Forum in fall.
- b. New ideas. These would become our priorities for the next several months, or longer if necessary.
 - i. See David Trevvett [DT Note for BCAN rpt on PedAC.docx](#)
 - ii. See [RS Brainstorming Summary.odt](#)
 - iii. Marilyn – Consider focus group to identify projects.
 - iv. Marilyn – Consider sessions with state or national Representatives.
 - v. Susan – Consider survey of interests and then focus group.
 - vi. Susan – Consider senior affordable housing, but may be beyond BrooklineCAN capability (Janet).
 - vii. Susan – Consider Brookline resident % re waiting list
 - viii. Note – Need to follow up on survey results.
 - ix. **Carol – Return to AFB project (new businesses).
 - x. **AFB – Consider Jerry Feuer as lead and Matt and others assist him re AFB process, recall GBH AFB Brookline show.
 - xi. **AFB – Participants (Marilyn, Yolanda)
 - xii. **Carol – Resurrect Education Committee (4 lectures/year).
 - xiii. **Consider sessions at the Library but needs staff.
 - xiv. Carol – Consider archive from 2009 on re BrooklineCAN.
 - xv. Ruth – Need to contact individuals re projects.

- c. AFB and housing.
 - i. Valerie Fletcher – Institute for Human Centered Design
 - ii. AFC-TV Episode 40 – Inclusive Design (4/13/2023)
 - iii. AFB and how to stay in home safely.

3. Discussion of Membership Model

- a. Considered no specific dues approach.
 - i. Analysis suggests \$5K-6K shortfall.
 - ii. Vote was 3-3 plus Ruth who was opposed to a change.
 - iii. Final vote was 4-3 against change.
 - iv. Decided to remove statement about income level.
- b. Consider mission statement.
 - i. See [Why join BrooklineCAN \(2\).docx](#)
 - ii. All look at update of mission statement based on the letter.
 - iii. Goals are specifics under general mission statement.
- c. No charging for meetings.
- d. No fundraising activities.
- e. Mention of income level has been removed.

4. Update on Council on Aging Director's succession

- a. Search committee and Town Administrator has selected Ashley Sheehan as the finalist candidate.
 - i. CoA Director City of Methuen.
 - ii. CoA Director in Graton and Littleton.
 - iii. Program Director at Wellesley CoA Senior Center. (6 years)
 - iv. 12/2 – met Town Hall officials and department heads.
 - v. 12/2 – lunch with Chas and Ruthann.
 - vi. 12/2 – met with CoA staff and stakeholders in Senior Center.
 - vii. Ashley is Chas's recommendation.
 - viii. Next step – CoA will take up matter at 1/8/2025 meeting.
 - ix. 1/14/2025 – Select Board will vote on hiring.
 - x. Start date depends on Ashley – no end date yet for Ruthann.
- b. Chas indicates 30/60/90 day transition plan.
 - i. Ruthann would work as a contractor assisting transition.
 - ii. Consider Ruthann role in CoA budget approval hearings.
- c. Ruthann comments on role of BrooklineCAN.
 - i. Need to consider revitalizing successes and new projects.
 - ii. Need for communication, advocacy.
 - iii. Be aware of local, state and federal issues re older adults.
 - iv. Communicating and building membership very important.
 - v. Age-friendly/multigenerational issues growing in state.
- d. Review of December 11, 2024 celebration
- e. Save the Date for April 27, 2025 fundraiser in honor of Ruthann.
- **Update on Brookline's Comprehensive Plan**
 - f. No report.

5. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. No unusual expenses.
- b. Note – Eliminating dues would lose half the contributions.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership
 - i. No report.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – Articles due 12/21 and publish after Christmas.
 - ii. News Releases – None.
 - iii. Website – None.
 - iv. AFC-TV – None.
 - v. Social Media – None.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
 - i. Next meeting – January 13th, 2025.

7. Old and New Business

- a. None.

8. Next Steering Committee Meeting: August 21

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 12/16/2024: 186

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 11/18/2024: 186

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 10/15/2024: 185

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 9/13/2024: 188

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 8/16/2024: 188

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 7/12/2024: 196

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 6/21/2024: 194