

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes July 17, 2024

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Sonia Wong. Guest: Susan Howards. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN goals and priorities 2024

- a. Succession plan for Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
 - i. Co-chairs are required – Susan can run a meeting if needed.
 - ii. Janet – Continue to take notes if not chairing meeting.
- b. Suggestions for topics, guest speakers Fall 2024
 - i. Suggestion – Roger Blood on public senior housing.
 - ii. Issue – Brookline has high percentage of non-residents in public senior housing.
 - iii. Consider – Other people rather than only Roger Blood.
- c. Suggestions
 - i. Janet suggested a survey of LCAC mailing list (Do they attend? How often? Read the minutes? Topics?)
 - ii. Note – 25 on mailing list are BrooklineCAN members.
 - iii. Susan indicated purpose of LCAC is to involve Town in issues of importance to older adults and consider becoming members of BrooklineCAN.
 - iv. LCAC open to all or only to members of BrooklineCAN?
 - v. Matt – See no reason to restrict or invite removal from list.
 - vi. John – Each LCAC meeting should strongly suggest attendees be or become BrooklineCAN members.
 - vii. Janet – Regular LCAC attendees are Steering Committee members.
 - viii. Susan – Survey asking for topics would be helpful.
- d. Susan and Janet work on a short survey re LCAC interests.

2. Follow up on membership discussion from June 2024 meeting – we will focus on membership in August, as well as looking at FY25 goals and priorities

- a. Action item on the brochure
 - i. Reprint brochure as is (600 copies).
- b. Lapsed members letters
 - i. Carol Caro agreed to work on the letters – made 2 changes...
 - ii. Stats: 7 members not renewed in last 60 days; 19 members not renewed in last 6 months (including the 7); 34 members not renewed in 1 year; 86 members not renewed in 2 years
 - iii. Which group(s) – 1 year

- iv. How implemented – Janet and John will assist with mailing.
- c. Clarification on BrooklineCAN's 501 (3)(c) status and role of advocacy
 - i. "Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office".
 - ii. BrooklineCAN is a "project" under the Senior Center not a 501(c)(3) organization itself.
 - iii. Cannot campaign and lobby for politicians.
 - iv. Can advocate but limited as % of total budget (not an issue).
 - v. Purpose of BrooklineCAN is to advocate.

3. BrooklineCAN co-sponsorship of Race and Song: A Musical Conversation On Wednesday, July 31 at 1:00 pm at the Brookline Senior Center <https://www.openingdoorsproject.net/education/>

- a. Greeters – Highlight that BrooklineCAN is a co-sponsor.
 - i. David – will give out newsletters and information.
 - ii. How are greeters from BrooklineCAN membership invited?
 - iii. Who is responsible for recruiting such volunteers?
- b. Failure to include BrooklineCAN as a sponsor on Senior Center website was discussed.
 - i. Front page of Brookline Beacon did not include BrooklineCAN as a sponsor.

4. Update on Council on Aging Director's succession

- a. Town Administrator putting together a search committee.
 - i. Yolanda – Possible Chair.
 - ii. Julie Washburn – suggested.
 - iii. Betsy Pollock – Potential member
 - iv. Susan – mentioned before her accident.
 - v. BrooklineCAN should advocate for a say.
- b. Begin search in earnest around Labor Day.
- c. Official Job Description (current – preparing new one) includes
 - i. Co-Chair of BrooklineCAN
 - ii. Co-Chair of Age Friendly Cities Committee
 - iii. Force-of-nature.
- d. Email letter from BrooklineCAN would be appropriate
 - i. Janet will draft a letter from Ruth as Chair of BrooklineCAN.
 - ii. BrooklineCAN requests input into the selection process.
 - iii. Based on important role of the Senior Center Director in BrooklineCAN and Age Friendly Cities Committee.
 - iv. Based on important work for older adults by BrooklineCAN over the 14 years of its existence.

- v. BrooklineCAN requests input to selection of the candidate.

5. Brookline Day September 8, 2024

- a. Coolidge Corner again.
- b. BrooklineCAN will be in the Mini Town Hall area again.
- c. Next to Senior Center table.
- d. Volunteers
 - i. Janet
 - ii. David
 - iii. Carol
 - iv. John
- v. Invite Susan Cohen to assist.

6. Update on 108 Centre Street

- a. Applications due 7/27/2024 for 54 units of affordable housing.
 - i. Lottery is 8/21/2024.
 - ii. Housing to be available in December 2024.
- b. 4,200 sq. ft. of community space in 1st floor.
 - i. Expected to be Senior Center space.
 - ii. James Brown now said the space would cost the Senior Center \$84K per year (Commercial rate).
 - iii. Surprising and disappointing.

7. Update on Brookline's AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

- a. AARP *Designing for People of All Ages* Workshop: Oct. 16-17, 2024. Registration begins in August 2024.
 - i. All – Try to familiarize selves with AARP available programs.
- b. Age- and Dementia-Friendly Massachusetts Action Plan Refresh (see attached description) :
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/age-and-dementia-friendly-massachusetts-action-plan-refresh?_gl=1*14nao4f*_ga*MTE4MDMyMDA2Ni4xNjUxNjkzOTM3*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTcxNjQ3MDQ0Ny4yODYuMC4xNzE2NDcwNDQ3LjAuMC4w&utm_campaign=website&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Realtime+Email+Digest

Statewide Age- and Dementia-Friendly Virtual Listening Session:

Tuesday, July 30 from 10:00am - 12:00pm via ZOOM

TO REGISTER: <https://forms.office.com/g/t24LxbF23P>

8. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Expenses – None. (New Fiscal year)
 - i. Some were late for last report and not part of new year.
 - ii. Report from last meeting rather than beginning of fiscal year.

- b. Income
 - i. Same situation - \$255 in new year \$1,365 from last meeting.
 - ii. Will report on discrepancy due to new year.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Membership
 - i. No report.
- b. Communications
 - ii. Newsletter – Summer issue out
 - iii. News Releases – No activity.
 - iv. Website – No changes.
 - v. AFC-TV – Christina Metcalf (Town Communications Officer).
 - vi. Social Media – *****
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
 - vii. Process for selecting next LCAC Committee Chair (or Co-Chairs)
- d. Education: July 31, 2024, Race and Song: A Musical
Conversation <https://www.openingdoorsproject.net/education/>

10. Old and New Business

- a. Matt will miss August meeting.
 - i. Janet will take the minutes.

11. Next Steering Committee Meeting: August 21

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 7/12/2024: 196

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 6/21/2024: 194

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 5/13/2024: 190

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 4/12/2024: 187