

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes June 17, 2026

Attendees: Marilyn Benson, Susan Granoff, Yolande Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Emily Williams, Sonia Wong.

1. Review Minutes

- a. Approved (9:0:0)

2. Review of Spring Social at The Newbury with Neighbors Connect; future plans for collaboration

- a. Note – Lower attendance (11) than hoped due to difficulties in coordinating invitations between Brookline CAN and Neighbors Connect organizations.
 - i. Decided to have a targeted list of members to invite.
 - ii. Steering committee members were asked to send names.
 - iii. Steering Committee members and 12 or so others.
 - iv. Carol Caro, Melissa Trevvett, Susan Cohen & Leslie Friedman came.
 - v. Diane Abrams, member of both organizations came.
 - vi. Invitation to whole membership went out day before event.
 - vii. Members Roberta and Alan Levitan dropped by but left.
- b. Despite the lower numbers, participants reported the event was successful, with good atmosphere, mixing of members from both organizations, and positive feedback about the venue and catering at The Newbury.
- c. Ruth – Room was full & all very much in evidence so numbers were not a problem and things went well.
- d. Discussed potential next steps.
 - i. Holding quarterly social events.
 - ii. Ways to collaborate on programs like walking groups.
- e. Note – Differences in BrooklineCAN's focus on advocacy versus social activities focus of Neighbors Connect.
- f. Comments – Well-planned, food was excellent, view was spectacular, seating was comfortable, lot of interaction before.
- g. Matt – Excellent venue and central to all Brookline.
- h. Yolanda – Excellent presentations by Emily and Ruth, every table was mixed and most people spoke.

- i. David – Lot of good & interesting people getting to know each other for the first time, and learning something about each other.
- j. Susan – Prior meetings broke the ice enhancing the experience.
- k. Emily – Perhaps quarterly socials at The Newbury or elsewhere.
- l. Susan – Request list from Clare Bonfillio of Brookline members.
- m. Matt – Groups can learn from each other.
- n. Susan – Overlap but differences, e.g., advocacy & education vs. social interaction.
- o. David – Exchange newsletters & ask for a list of recipients.
- p. Extensive discussion followed.
- q. Susan – Overlap but differences, e.g., advocacy & education vs. social interaction.

3. Vote slate of SC members to begin in July

- a. New members: Susan Cohen, Diane Abrams, Julia Herskowitz.
 - i. Julia Hersowitz is not running for Steering Committee.
 - ii. Susan Cohen & Diane Abrams approved 9-0-0.
- b. Reappoint members two-year terms: Matt Weiss, John Seay, and Ruth Seidman
 - i. Approved 9-0-0.

4. Treasurers Report (John Seay)

- a. Next month is end of fiscal year and year to year results.
- b. Actions/information
 - i. Straightened out access to bank account and reporting.
 - ii. Foundation is vehicle for tax exempt status.
 - iii. 169 members.
- c. Expenses
 - i. Printing - \$275
 - ii. \$1,000 BIG donation.
- d. Income – 6 renewals from \$35 to \$295.

5. Projects

- a. Supporting BIG
- b. Age-Friendly Business Campaign – Ruth for Carol
 - i. Discussion of access to Age-Friendly Business web page.
 - ii. Beacon related ad displayed and well-received.
 - iii. Note – Beacon ad re why be a BrooklineCAN member.
- c. Partner Project – See item 2.

6. Annual Meetings

- a. Fall Forum – October 2026

- i. Set up a committee to plan the Fall Forum and discuss possible theme and panelists.
- ii. “Making Our Voices Heard” apply to various subjects.
- iii. Panel with at least one recognizable celebrity.
- iv. Ideas: Mass Senior Action Council, National Council on Aging.
- v. Suggestion: 1 person who knows history of ageism.
- vi. Matt: Town Administrator, Chaz.
- vii. Candidates: Jake Auchincloss, Markey, Seth Moulton, Elizabeth Warren.
- viii. Marilyn: Ruth Nimzoff.
- ix. David: Local, state, national?
- x. Workers: Marilyn, Yolanda, Emily, Ruth, (Marilyn ask Melissa),
- xi. Brookline Day: Print extra newsletters to hand out and have special flyers for the Fall Forum.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Marilyn Benson)
 - i. Membership/Communications updated membership brochure.
 - ii. Copies will be available for Brookline Day and as needed.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – (Ruth Seidman) – No report.
 - ii. News releases and Outreach – No report.
 - iii. Website and social media – (John Seay & Matt Weiss) – No report.
 - iv. AFC-TV – (John Seay) – No report.
- c. LCAC & Notetaker – (Susan Granoff)
 - i. Next meeting September 14th.
- d. Education
 - i. No report.

8. Review of 2026 Priorities (Develop plans for each)

- a. Open discussion in July meeting – not today.

9. Old and New Business

- a. David will set up the Zoom for July 15 meeting.
- b. David away in August and Emily away for July 15.

10. Next Steering Committee meeting: July 15, 2026 at 3 PM