

## **BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes March 18, 2026**

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

### **1. Thank you Carol**

- a. The steering committee discussed Carol's departure, noting she will continue her Age Friendly Business campaign and communications work while stepping back from monthly meetings. Emily shared Carol's suggestions for fee structure changes and advocacy programming,
- b. Agreed to recruit a new member. Matt suggested Diane Abrams from Neighbors Connect and the committee agreed she would be a good addition.
  - i. Emily will send out Diane Abrams' email address.

### **2. Treasurers report (John Seay)**

- a. Expenses
  - i. Regular expense for newsletter printing.
  - ii. Note – Administration fee rising by about \$1,000.
- b. Contributions
  - i. 12 new payments.
- c. Membership
  - i. 168 members.
  - ii. 9 renewals and 1 new member Ellen Zellner.

### **3. Projects**

- a. Co-sponsor Women's History program
  - i. Brookline Village Library today at 1pm (20+ people).
  - ii. LWV, Senior Center and BrooklineCAN are sponsors.
  - iii. Sonia's table for BrooklineCAN was beautiful per Yolanda.
  - iv. BrooklineCAN mentioned at least 5 times by the speaker.
- b. Age-Friendly Business Campaign
  - i. Letter is in the mail to all the new businesses.
- c. Partner project
  - i. Review discussion with Neighbors Connect
  - ii. Liked the projects related to people living alone.
  - iii. Interesting that they see community not fixed to a place.
  - iv. Walking groups were excellent.
  - v. Interested in living alone and dying presentation.
  - vi. Building a community of friends not a physical space.
  - vii. Being JP and Boston with no Senior Center they are forced to work toward community 1<sup>st</sup> which is great.

- viii. Noted that Senior Center problem is lack of parking.
- ix. Noted that Boston uses libraries as physical centers.
- x. Idea for us – They gathered based on neighborhoods.
- xi. They are interested in BrooklineCAN re advocacy.
- xii. They are interested in BrooklineCAN listings of resources.
- xiii. Emily – Learn re social activities (e.g., Annual Meeting in 2 parts Spring social and fall famous speaker).
- d. Follow-up
  - i. Invite Neighbors Connect to next LCAC meeting (Emily).
  - ii. Invite Diane Abrams to join BrooklineCAN Steering Committee (Ruth).
- e. Spring Coffee Social with Neighbors Connect
- f. Fall Forum – October 2026

#### **4. Annual Meetings**

- a. Spring Coffee Social with Neighbors Connect – June 2026
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> step in having social meetings.
  - ii. Consider location at Newbury with parking and venue.
  - iii. Can relate to WA-13 and meet new people at Newbury.
  - iv. Need to start planning theme, food, setting, tables, etc.
  - v. Theme by next meeting.
  - vi. Late June – Consider heat and rain.
  - vii. **Emily – Will find out details and report at next meeting.**
  - viii. Need to inform Neighbors Connect members.
- b. Fall Forum – October 2026
  - i. Senior Center fundraiser moved from fall to spring.
  - ii. Material is ready.

#### **5. Candidates Forum – April 16<sup>th</sup> 4-6PM.**

- i. Meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. BrooklineCAN table needed.
- iii. Matt will be timekeeper and will inform Carol.
- iv. Time to get in touch with BIG and set up coverage.
- v. 3 candidates for 2 Select Board positions (Anthony Buono).
- vi. Note must be out by 6:30PM on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- vii. Note – Table for TMMs candidate material.
- viii. Note – 1 question plus audience questions for each.

#### **6. Committee Reports**

- a. Membership (Marilyn Benson)
  - i. Rewrote all the letters for renewal and for new members to those who have renewed.
  - ii. Same letters can be used for April.
  - iii. One response not interested in joining a committee but will follow up with some phone calls.
  - iv. Need an Education Committee to attract people.

- v. Newsletter blurb this month about joining a committee.
- b. Nominating Committee
  - i. New year starts in July and looking for additional Steering Committee members.
  - ii. Next month will set up the Nominating Committee members.
- c. Communications
  - i. Newsletter – (Ruth Seidman) – Article re Candidate Forum, Town election and voting by mail.
  - ii. News releases and Outreach – No report.
  - iii. Website and social media – (John Seay) Recognize need to update content but needs volunteers. Concentrating on the front page, select page and event page. Need resources to update content.
  - iv. AFC-TV – (John Seay) Episode 58 Caitlin Starr of ODEICR.
- d. LCAC & Notetaker – (Susan Granoff)
  - i. April 13<sup>th</sup> 3PM – Anthony Buono.
  - ii. Invited new Library Director but not heard back yet.
  - iii. Inviting the Neighbors Connect people to next LCAC.
- e. Education
  - i. No report.

## **7. Review of 2026 Priorities (Develop plans for each)**

- a. No discussion.

## **8. Old and New Business**

- a. Privacy concerns – All Town government meetings and emails are subject to public access even if in your private email.
- b. David Trevvett – Need more members of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
- c. Emily Williams – Senior Needs Assessment Survey extend to end of March.
- d. Ruth Seidman – Note article in Brookline.News re Age-Friendly Business project.

## **9. Next Steering Committee meeting: April 15, 2026 at 3 PM**