

## **BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes March 19, 2025**

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

### **1. Priorities/Activities for 2025 as discussed at Dec 2024 meeting**

- a. Participate in CoA Director transition and work with new Director Emily Williams.
- b. Support more secure funding for Council on Aging as senior population grows and needs increase.
- c. Candidates' Forum
- d. Annual meeting in the fall.
- e. Participate in offering educational events.
- f. Continue efforts to engage and build membership; clarify role of the organization and communicate.
  - i. Marilyn and Bea are now co-chairs of Membership.
  - ii. First batch of non-renewals said they had now re-upped.
  - iii. Discussion re process of contacting lapsed members.
  - iv. Discussion re updating of lapsed member letter.
  - v. Marilyn to meet with Sandy.
  - vi. John indicated newest copies of letters in one folder now.
  - vii. Membership committee controls the lapsed letter process.
  - viii. John will distribute recent letters to Marilyn and Bea.
  - ix. Suggestions for new Membership committee members.
  - x. Bea's letter at end of Minutes. (Why become a member...)
  - xi. Suggest final version be distributed at Candidates Forum.
- g. Seek ways to revitalize Age-Friendly Business Program

### **2. Discussion on Annual Meeting 2025**

- a. Tentative theme is "How to Stay in One's Home Safely"
- b. Tentative guest speaker is Valerie Fletcher from Institute of Human Centered Design.
  - i. Suggested theme change is "Aging in Community".
- c. Need planning committee members by next meeting.

### **3. Update on Council on Aging Director's succession**

- a. Emily Williams will begin on Monday March 24<sup>th</sup>. She will be hosting coffee hours at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. BrooklineCAN Steering Committee is invited to attend.
  - i. Future coffee hours date and locations tbd.
- b. Ruthann will be on a 25 hour per week basis to assist for a while.

### **4. Candidates' Forum 2025 – Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 4-6:00 PM**

- a. Update
  - i. Devon Fields is moderator.
  - ii. 2 questions each for School Committee and Select Board candidates.
  - iii. Not yet clear how many candidates – Impacting questions.
  - iv. 2 welcome tables (1 for BrooklineCAN and 1 for LWV)
  - v. LWV will not have Voters Guide ready.
  - vi. School Board candidates 1<sup>st</sup> on agenda as they requested.
  - vii. Timekeeper – Matt Weiss.
- b. Timing
  - i. School Board vs. Select Board not yet firm. (now 2/3 to 1/3)
  - ii. Want time for audience to ask questions.
  - iii. 2 minutes per candidate for each answer.
- c. Publicity
  - i. Save-the-date was in BrooklineCAN newsletter.
  - ii. LWV sent similar to final flyer to LWV mailing list.
  - iii. Finalized BrooklineCAN flyer with website address.
  - iv. BrooklineCAN style stationary to LWV and BrooklineCAN websites and mailing lists.
  - v. Sonia will distribute the flyers – per Bea.
  - vi. On digital sign in front of the Marriott.
  - vii. Press list for distribution.
  - viii. Short bios for each candidate to be printed and available at the Forum – to be printed early that week.
- d. Devon will contact candidates re schedule/timing.
- e. Meet again Wednesday 3/26 if any input to Janet by weekend.
- f. Staffing of Membership table
  - i. Bea and Marilyn – David will fill in.
  - ii. Devon I remind people to leave at end so staff can close up.
  - iii. Signup material for BrooklineCAN available only not pushed.
- g. Janet will raise question of Town Meeting or other candidates leaving material on a table.
  - i. In any case – will be a table available for that purpose.
- h. Any other questions or action items via email.

## **5. Update on Brookline's Comprehensive Plan (No update this month)**

- a. Presentation to Select Board was delivered – Look for update.

## **6. BrooklineCAN Nominating Committee**

- a. The Nominating Committee is recommending Marilyn Benson for a Member-at-Large.
  - i. No longer needed as Marilyn is Membership Co-Chair.
- b. Nominating committee will report in May, we vote in June and new officers start in July.
- c. Seeking committee members.

- i. Any suggestions forward to Ruth.
- d. Formal review process for May and June meetings.

## **7. MetroBridge Project recruiting volunteers**

- a. BU project under State Department of Elder Affairs.
  - i. Make public spaces more age and dementia friendly.
  - ii. Spaces – Coolidge Corner and Brookline Village Libraries.
  - iii. Spaces – Senior Center and park at Dean Road.
  - iv. 1<sup>st</sup> walkthrough at Senior Center April 1<sup>st</sup> – looking for participants.

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

- a. Only expense was newsletter.
- b. Membership numbers have increased but not where desired.
- c. Sandy works in basement of Senior Center Fridays.
  - i. Requested continued work at home as during COVID.
  - ii. Needs a Microsoft Office license for her home computer.
  - iii. \$439.99 one-time charge.
  - iv. Approved.

## **9. Committee Reports**

- a. Membership
  - i. See item 1.f.
- b. Communication
  - i. Newsletter – 1<sup>st</sup> 2 articles on Candidates Forum and Ruthann Soiree.
  - ii. News Releases – Carol Caro has offered to put an ad for BrooklineCAN in the Beacon every issue for a year. THANK YOU CAROL.
  - iii. Website – No report.
  - iv. AFC-TV – Jessica Smyser was guest and BIG is setting up a Podcast Studio.
  - v. Social Media – No report.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
  - i. Last meeting – Liz Linder and Carlos Ridruejo.
  - ii. Prior meeting – Michael Rubenstein. Strong interest and larger turnout.
  - iii. Next meeting – April 7<sup>th</sup> discussion of Warrant Articles.

## **10. Old and New Business**

- a. None.

## **11. Next Steering Committee Meeting: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 3PM via Zoom**

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 3/14/2025: 183

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 2/15/2025: 176

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 1/15/2025: 184  
 BrooklineCAN Membership as of 12/16/2024: 186  
 BrooklineCAN Membership as of 11/18/2024: 186

###DRAFT###

## **Why become a member of BrooklineCAN: The Voice for Brookline's older residents**

### **Your membership strengthens BrooklineCAN's advocacy**

BrooklineCAN, the Brookline Community Aging Network, works to keep issues important to Brookline's older residents in front of Town leadership and advocates for policies, programs, and funding that make Brookline an age-friendly place to live.

Our Livable Community Advocacy Committee's "conversations" with Select Board members and Town staff educate Town decision-makers about the concerns of Brookline's older residents.

- Your membership helps improve the lives of Brookline's older residents**

It means we can sponsor a Town Election Forum each year, distribute print copies of our monthly newsletter, update and expand our age-friendly businesses list, and sponsor more in-person and on-line programs.

- Your membership helps improve the lives of all Town residents**

BrooklineCAN is a catalyst for creating new Town programs, like TRIPPS (alternative transportation programs); new Town priorities, like pedestrian-friendly sidewalk lighting and benches; and new Town committees, like the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, which are now independent of BrooklineCAN.

- \*Your membership opens up opportunities for you**

You can connect with others by joining one of BrooklineCAN's committees, engage in exciting projects, use your skills, and make new friends.

**A yearly donation will get you an individual membership (including the monthly Newsletter) in Brookline's only voice for older residents.**

**PLEASE JOIN US TODAY.**

**\*\*\*\*\*BrooklineCAN is an all-volunteer organization\*\*\*\*\***

