

## **BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes May 20, 2026**

Attendees: Marilyn Benson, Carol Caro, Susan Granoff, Julia Hershkowitz, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Emily Williams, Sonia Wong.

### **1. Review Minutes**

- a. Approved as corrected.

### **2. Candidates Forum Feedback**

- a. Excellent turnout apparently larger than other similar forums.
- b. Yolanda – Excellent format for all three panels.
  - i. Two questions from moderator and the rest from audience.
  - ii. Thank you Carol.
- c. David- Jamie did an excellent job with the audience mic.
- d. Suggestion – Need name & position in front of each candidate.
- e. John – Multiple candidates should answer each question.
- f. Yolanda – Excellent that LWV voter guides were available.
- g. David – Need to make LWV table more visible.

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

- a. 2 month report thanks to work of Sonia who is back.
  - i. 2 months – 20 payments from \$10 to \$1,000.
  - ii. 1 gift payment – from a child for her parents.
  - iii. Expense – 2 months of printing.
- b. Donation of \$1,000 to BIG.
  - i. Not on report due to lack of documentation of destination.
  - ii. Other payments without invoices were listed as outreach.
  - iii. Need separate expense line for donations.
  - iv. Matt checking emails for BIG acknowledgement.

### **4. Projects**

- a. Set up Nominating Committee
  - i. \*\*\*\*\*
- b. Supporting BIG
  - i. [https://brookline.news/brookline-interactive-group-furloughs-nearly-half-its-staff-as-financial-squeeze-continues/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20Newsletter%20%2852602%20&utm\\_source=8ed387ec27](https://brookline.news/brookline-interactive-group-furloughs-nearly-half-its-staff-as-financial-squeeze-continues/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20Newsletter%20%2852602%20&utm_source=8ed387ec27)
  - ii. See Item 3.b.
- c. Age-Friendly Business Campaign – Ruth for Carol
  - i. Several new businesses have signed up.
  - ii. Listed on website in 3 lists – Category/name/date.
  - iii. Bottom of the list is who is new.

- iv. Ad in Beacon re our AFB activities.
- d. Partner Project: Spring Coffee Social with Neighbors Connect – June 10, 2026 4-6pm at The Newbury at Fisher Hill
  - i. Emily – Met with Neighbors Connect Clare Bonfilio.
  - ii. The Newbury – Space will accommodate 45 people total, half from each group (Steering Committee members included If available).
  - iii. Free wine and refreshments, snacks, and a light dinner.
  - iv. Working group – Emily, Marilyn, Ruth and Matt will determine format.
  - v. Group meet at 9:30am on 5/28 on Zoom.
  - vi. Publicity – Newsletter article saying members only 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served.
  - vii. Growing membership – Ideas discussed re using this gathering to bring in new members.
  - viii. **Goal – Develop partnerships with other organizations.**
  - ix. Emily – This is not a direct member recruitment initiative. This is a member engagement initiative It's a social. It's a wine and cheese social. This is a private member event, and it shows value to not just paying the annual fee to become a member, but to also enjoy the company of other members.
  - x. Emily – The Newbury is in a non-North Brookline area providing exposure in Central & South Brookline and strategically share with our members the potential for a 2<sup>nd</sup> senior center at the Fisher Hill property across the street.
  - xi. Yolanda – Senior Center is packed and busy so we need to do some of these things off-premises here in North Brookline, and it is a perfect place to go for that reason.
  - xii. Ruth – Consider another venue for a future social event.
  - xiii. Susan – Focus on members that have been active.
  - xiv. Note – Every attendee needs to arrange own transportation.
  - xv. Matt – Steering Committee needs to decide whether a social interaction meeting or a spring meeting similar to Annual Meeting.
  - xvi. Yolanda – Location highlights need for transportation.
  - xvii. David & Susan – Invite LCAC attendees of last meeting.
  - xviii. **Decision – Create a targeted list not a newsletter article.**

## 5. Annual Meetings

- a. Fall Forum – October 2026
  - i. Discuss at June meeting.

## 6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Marilyn Benson)
  - i. No responses from people who haven't re-upped.

- ii. Need interesting events that will attract new members.
- iii. Marilyn will work on identifying events.
- b. Nominating Committee
  - i. John (Treasurer), Ruth (Co-Chair) and Matt (Clerk) willing to stay on for new terms.
  - ii. Specific roles are Marilyn (Membership Committee), Susan (LCAC) and Yolanda (COA).
  - iii. Listing nominations and vote is in June.
  - iv. David and Sonia are only at-large members now.
  - v. Need a list of people for the at-large group.
  - vi. Asked Susan Cohen, Diane Abrams, and Julia Herskowitz.
  - vii. Susan and Diane have, have agreed and Julia is here to learn more about us.
- c. Communications
  - i. Newsletter – (Ruth Seidman) – Marilyn doing articles on Steering Committee members and this month is David Trevvett.
  - ii. News releases and Outreach – No report.
  - iii. Website and social media – (John Seay & Matt Weiss) – Button added to Events page to add event to calendar.
  - iv. AFC-TV – (John Seay) – Aired interview with Kyle Robidoux of Friendship Works which arranges weekly meetings between volunteers (18-82) and older adults interested in taking part.
- d. LCAC & Notetaker – (Susan Granoff)
  - i. Had a really, interesting meeting with, Neighbors Connect, about a week and a half ago.
  - ii. Now in summer hiatus and next meeting is in September.
- e. Education
  - i. No report.

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

- a. No report.

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

- a. Introductions of each committee member for Julia Herskowitz.
- b. Susan – Re Needs Assessment.
  - i. Possibility of BrooklineCAN involvement.
  - ii. Perhaps communicating results to older adult community.
  - iii. Perhaps follow up meetings.
- c. Emily Response to Susan.
  - i. Researchers to send out correspondence re the results.

- ii. Will get people involved.
- iii. A strategic plan needs to be put together.
- iv. Julia and Yolanda, and 3 other women residents, Brookline seniors in town, will be putting that together.
- d. John – Arrange a meeting with Emily, Sonia, Anya and John/
  - i. Why the \$1,000 donation didn't show up on the report.
  - ii. What to do when Sonya's on vacation from volunteer work.

**9. Next Steering Committee meeting: June 17, 2026 at 3 PM**