

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes November 19, 2025

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

1. Fisher Hill Property / WA-13

- a. Status
 - i. 2nd on Town Meeting agenda for 11/19.
 - ii. Advisory Subcommittee (Public Safety), Advisory Committee, BCoD, CDEICR, BCOW.
 - iii. Select Board is tonight.
 - iv. Raised consciousness of people on the committees re older adults needs and age-friendly aspects/needs in Brookline.
- b. Emily – Anne Turner pool advocate was very supportive.
 - i. Need to make a pool age-friendly.
 - ii. Wonderful WA-13 project – all participated.
- c. Note transportation issue how are people to get to Fisher Hill.
- d. Tonight – Fran Perler speak first then Ruth.

2. Outreach.

- a. Beacon ad re Age-Friendly Business project help.
 - i. Ellen? Volunteered to work on this and started making calls.
 - ii. Carol contacted someone who worked on the project before to train new people.

3. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Expenses
 - i. Regular \$600 charge for printing of the newsletters.
- b. Contributions
 - i. Returning member with generous contribution.
 - ii. 12 payments \$35-\$500 avg. \$96 \$1,550.00 total.
 - iii. Carol Caro responsible for return.
 - iv. \$500 contribution gets handwritten note from Ruth/Emily?

4. Committee Reports – Status of Committees and Projects

- a. Membership
 - i. Marilyn Benson is the Chair of the Committee.
 - ii. Need a Co-Chair
 - iii. No committee members yet.
 - iv. People involved in CoA strategic study might be interested in BrooklineCAN Education and Membership Committees.
 - v. Letter prepared to people has not been sent.
 - vi. Marilyn, Emily and John will work on solution with Sandy.
- b. Communications

- i. Newsletter – Consider container in Senior Center to distribute and make visible.
 - ii. News releases – No report.
 - iii. Website – No report.
 - iv. AFC-TV – No report.
 - v. Social media – No report.
- c. Livable Community Advocacy Committee
 - i. Carol recommended Terry Kwan as next leader.

5. Education

- a. Plans to reactivate
 - i. Important to attract new members of BrooklineCAN.
 - ii. Marilyn will be a member not Chair.
 - iii. Suggestion – Membership/Education Committee?
 - iv. Senior Center Staff – 1 person.
 - v. Need professional in field of aging.

6. Old and New Business

- a. Senior Center items – Emily
 - i. Newsletter.
 - ii. One restriction added to medical transportation rides.
 - iii. Extending time based on available funds.
 - iv. Holiday events approaching.
 - v. Isolation/loneliness increases with winter and holidays.
 - vi. Applied for MASSDOT grant again.
 - vii. Applying for Brookline Community Foundation grant today.
 - viii. Susan Granoff interview in Brookline.News re Senior Center.
 - ix. Interview very well-received.
- b. Medical transportation and support
 - i. Note – Susan mentioned Senior Center medical escort program – Katie McClean is lead. (Carol will do article re service in the newsletter)
 - ii. Consider presentation re medical support sponsored by BrooklineCAN and the Senior Center
- c. Discussion of The Newbury.
- d. Committee needs/plans
 - i. Steering Committee need for at-large members.
 - ii. Communications Committee needs Publicity/PR person.
 - iii. LCAC Note Taker – Consider using transcription from recording for note taking.
 - iv. LCAC Co-Chair – 6 or 7 meetings per year.
 - v. LCAC – Susan will send out list of attendees to LCAC.

- e. Discussion of assessment to be performed by the CoA re needs of older adults and forming a strategic plan.
 - i. Includes a survey online and in print, focus groups, and individual key stakeholder interviews.
 - ii. Timeline – Data by May, surveys in late January.
 - iii. Extensive discussion re Health Department strategic plan.
 - iv. Extensive discussion re CoA strategic plan.
 - v. Susan – Consider approach by Health re CHA and CHIP

7. Review of 2025 Priorities

- a. Participate in COA Director transition and work with new director
- b. Support more funding for COA as senior population grows and needs increase
- c. Candidates Forum
- d. Annual Meeting September 2025
- e. Participate in offering educational events
- f. Continue efforts to engage and build membership; clarify role of the organization and communicate it
- g. Seek ways to revitalize Age-Friendly Business Program
- h. Begin planning for the coming year.

8. Next Steering Committee meeting: December 17, 2025 at 3 PM