

BROOKLINE COMMUNITY AGING NETWORK  
Livable Community Advocacy Committee LCAC  
February 1, 2021  
Notes

Attending: Susan Granoff (Chair), Matt Weiss (ZOOM host), John Seay, John Harris, Marion Freedman-Gurspan, Henry Winkelman, David Trevvett, Susan Cohen, Carol Caro, Yolanda Rodriguez, Paula Friedman, Lydia Kaufman, Diana Spiegel, Gordon Szerlip, Lou Crimmins, Carol Seibert (Notes)

A. Future Leadership, Organization, and Operational Structure of LCAC

Susan Granoff outlined, and others contributed to, a list of the many tasks Frank Caro handled. A few that were mentioned included: liaison to BCAN Steering Committee (Susan Granoff will continue doing this), representing the issue of affordable housing (Henry Winkelman offered to do this), liaison to Age-Friendly City Committee (Henry Winkelman offered to do this), developing a monthly agenda and inviting speakers, chairing the monthly meeting, taking notes at our meetings (Carol Seibert offered to do this) representing LCAC at Town Meeting in support of Warrant Articles, and meeting with Brookline officials as advocate for issues supported by LCAC.

Given the number of time-consuming tasks involved, it was decided that we will have a Chair for the first three months and an Executive Committee to divide the work. Susan Granoff will be our first Chair. Executive Committee to include the following volunteers: Susan Cohen, Paula Friedman, Carol Seibert, and Henry Winkelman.

B. Potential Topics and/or Speakers for Future Meetings

1.HOUSING: \* Carol Caro offers to arrange a focus group meeting with Building a Better Brookline (contact her to participate in advocating for senior interests with this affordable housing group.).

\* Invite speakers from Hebrew Senior Life and Centre Communities of Brookline to discuss the plans for a development at 100-120 Centre St. Many concerns were raised here including parking, impact on the Brookline Senior Center, zoning relief, diversity and inclusion, size of the project, compatibility with the residential neighborhood, and segregation of the affordable units in one

building. Carol Caro sits on the Centre St. Zoning Committee. They have sent the developers back to refine their proposal with many of these concerns in mind. She recommends that we keep track of upcoming meetings of the committee by utilizing the “Notify Me” tool on the Town website. If we have specific concerns, please email her with them. Ruthann Dobek proposes to attend our next LCAC meeting to discuss this project in more detail.

\*Invite speakers from Brookline Improvement Coalition BIC (Henry Winkelman and Deborah Brown)

\*Moderate income senior housing (Workforce housing)

2. Update on senior demographics in Brookline (American Community Survey report)

3. Economic insecurity among Brookline seniors

4. Covid vaccine distribution (Dr. Jett.)

5. Pedestrian Lighting Committee update

6. Training for new businesses on how to be age-friendly

7. Brookline City versus Town

8. Ageism

9. Development and zoning 101 in Brookline (? Linda Olson Pehlke)

10. Meeting with new Town Department heads to hear their plans and voice our concerns

11. Transportation options for seniors

12. Racial justice

13. Creating a senior voting block for greater impact

14. Town budget input (Melissa Goff, Deputy Town Administrator)

15. Satellite Senior Center, possibly at Fisher Hill

16. Invite all four Brookline Massachusetts State Representatives

17. Climate, speaker on Brookline Green Electricity

If anyone has additional agenda suggestions, please email Susan Granoff.

## C. Spring Election Forum

Susan Granoff reported that a committee is being formed to organize BCAN's Spring Election Forum that is held each year. The Forum will take place in April. Candidates for town-wide offices that impact seniors will be invited to answer questions from seniors. Carol Caro is chair of this committee, and anyone interested in working on the Election Forum should contact her.

#### D. Brookline's Senior Vaccine Roll-Out: Concerns and Comments

Ruthann is working hard on this. There is a very limited supply expected (100 vaccine doses per week to Brookline). Many concerns expressed about the difficulty of scheduling an appointment. Worry about the lack of top-down coordination, seniors who don't have car transportation, those in public housing, those who have no access to the internet. A webinar on COVID-19 vaccines on Feb 2, 2021, at 7:00 pm offered by the Town public health department is set to provide up-to-date information on the virus and the vaccines.

#### E. Membership and LCAC Member Contact list

John Seay maintains a list of LCAC members and their email contacts. The problem is that one must be a member of BCAN in order to be included on the mailing list. John tells us that 4-6 members of LCAC are not BCAN members. Membership dues are \$35 per year, low income \$10, and no-cost membership is available if needed.

We will need a way to maintain a mailing list that we all use to communicate with each other. At present some names need to be added manually.

#### F. Pedestrian Lighting Committee

David Trevvett filled us in about where this important work stands now. He spoke with Bernard Greene and offered to contact the Committee to see if a draft report that Frank Caro had prepared is ready to go out in finalized form to the Transportation Committee and the Select Board. David will distribute the draft to LCAC. It is a multi-decade, trillions of dollars project. There will need to be a policy decision that this is a Brookline goal.

Next meeting of LCAC will be 3:00- 4:30 pm on March 8, 2021. Matt Weiss will host the ZOOM meeting.

Please let me know if you have additions or corrections for these notes.

Carol Seibert, cpseibert@gmail.com