

Notes of BrooklineCAN Membership Committee Meeting 1/27/2022 via Zoom

Present: Jude Kidd, Ellen Bick, Carol Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Marsha Frankel, Janet Gelbart

Absent: Susan Cohen, Melissa Trevvett

Membership Stats

	January 24, 2022	March, 2021
Active	278	259
Deceased	58	53
Donor	9	8
Former Member	509	495
Inactive	110	108
Prospect	109	109

Numbers are up slightly from last year. Figures include the free trial memberships that were offered when Ellen and Marsha visited Brown House and 110 Centre St. Ruthann reported that JFCS will fund 25 memberships in 2022 for people living in supported housing

Recap of 2021 activities

Jude reviewed the committee's accomplishments over the past year:

- BIG show to educate people about BrooklineCAN
- Publicity in newsletter on volunteer opportunities
- Visits to senior-living buildings by Ellen and Marsha
- "Here's what we've been doing" letter to members regarding Senior Center activities during COVID lockdown
- Updated membership renewal letter

Current Issues

- Brookline's home rule petition re: Colonel Floyd Apartments renovations
Thanks to Tommy Vitolo for successfully shepherding this request through the state legislature, exempting the Brookline Housing Authority from the filed sub-bid system. This will allow the BHA to create affordable, environmentally sustainable senior housing in town.
- Finding the right balance between in-person and zoom meetings
In-person works better for educational programs but people appreciate the added accessibility of zoom meetings for night-time gatherings.

- All the Lonely People

The event was a huge success, netting a \$20,000 surplus. As a co-chair, Ruthann will help decide how to use the funds to combat social isolation and loneliness among the elderly. The committee is looking for matching donations or grant funds and would like to sponsor showing of the film in other venues, e.g., the Senior Center.

- Candidate Forum

The Senior Center has historically sponsored a panel discussion with candidates for town wide offices sometime during the last two weeks of April. The date will be selected after the legislature determines the rules for early and mail-in voting so that the forum occurs before people have submitted ballots. Carol Caro has volunteered to coordinate with the candidates, Susan Granoff will work on questions for the participants, and the Communications Committee will handle the publicity. Still needed is a moderator for the panel since Michael Allen, who has performed this role in the past, will be on paternity leave. Suggestions include Matt Weiss, Jude Kidd, Marsha Frankel, Melissa Trevvett, David Trevvett, and Bea Mikulecki. Other possibilities were the recommendations for participants in the BIG production about BrooklineCAN (Ruth Seidman, John Seay, Vera Sharma, and Jerry Feuer).

*Carol will check with the Town Clerk to see if he will post names of those who have filed for election.

- BrooklineCAN Annual Meeting

No annual meeting was held in 2020 or 2021 because of in-person restrictions around COVID. A meeting will be held this fall sometime between Labor Day (9/5/2022) and the start of the Jewish holidays (Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown on 9/25). Meetings have historically been organized around a central theme, such as transportation or housing, with representatives of those topics available to speak with participants. Whether to provide refreshments as a buffet or as pre-wrapped items will need to be decided.

- Membership Fee

The group decided to retain the current fee of \$35 as long as no one is turned away for inability to pay.

- Committee Leadership

Jude reiterated that she will be stepping down as chair in March having served 18 months of a 6-month commitment. The committee needs to determine who will fill that role going forward.

Janet Gelbart
2-1-2022