

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Minutes January 16, 2019

Attendees: Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Roberta Winitzer, David Trevvett, Kathy Burnes

1. Note taker

- a. Elenore Parker volunteered to take notes in place of Secretary, Matt Weiss.

2. Appointment of 2019 Annual Meeting committee members

- a. Frank Caro asked for volunteers.
- b. Roberta Winitzer, Ruthann Dobek, Kathy Burnes volunteered. Frank volunteered Henry.
- c. Although it was noted that Henry is not a member of BrooklineCAN, the committee decided he should be credited with membership because of his volunteer work and donations.

3. Age-Friendly City Progress report & plans for 2019

- a. AF Committee is preparing a report covering 2-years of activities and plans for 2019.
- b. Discussion: use of Brookline funds from State assessment on transportation companies for pedestrian improvements. Brookline receives 20¢ on every Uber & Lyft trip out of Brookline for a total of \$242,000 last year (4th in MA). Taxi service in decline. We have asked the Town Transportation Board to consider allocation of money from this allocation to subsidize Uber & Lyft rides for low income seniors. We would also like to draw on these funds to fund Brookline TRIPPS. Newton submitted RFP for transportation company to discount Newton seniors by 50%.
- c. Bench initiative. Public Works Commissioner Pappastergion has responded positively to LCAC advocacy for new benches on Beacon Street. He asked us for suggestions of specific locations. He is supporting all of the requests we have made in Coolidge Corner and east of Coolidge Corner. In addition, he suggested that we recommend more locations west of Coolidge Corner.

4. Future directions for age-friendly business campaign

- a. Proposal to produce age-friendly business brochure. Kathy Burnes suggested JF&CS may pay for brochure. Communications committee may work on content/design
Reprints of parks brochure. JF&CS may pay for reprints if its financing is acknowledged JF&CS would like the brochures to be distributed at the Housing Authority's senior buildings.
Participation in Chamber of Commerce HeARTi Gras event
March 5. Event at Marriott AC Hotel, Cleveland Circle, open to

public, free food. BrooklineCAN will host Age Friendly Business table to disseminate materials. Outreach opportunity for BrooklineCAN.

5. Nesterly Workshop

- a. Nesterly, a for-profit startup, is looking for people, particularly seniors, to share their homes with college students. Senior Center conducted successful workshop. 10-12 people attended. Dependent upon relationship between college students and older home owners. Can rent space for as little as a month. Do not need long term commitment. Many students interested. Fewer older adults. Nesterly relies heavily on online promotion and administration

6. Commercial ventures

- a. Age-friendly Advisor. Boston Globe wrote article. Tim Driver heads commercial organization (www.agefriendly.com)
- b. Consumers' Checkbook – asks consumers to review and rate range of services. Consumers' Checkbook has invited BrooklineCAN to subscribe. They are looking for members. David was familiar with service. He will research and report to committee. Consumers' Checkbook addresses the same need as our Repair and Referral service.

7. Treasurer's Report

- a. John Seay reported –Monthly net income in December of \$3035, highest of year, includes proceeds from Frank's pottery sale. John also recommends purchasing 6-month supply (900) of Forever stamps before price increases from 50¢ to 55¢ on Jan. 27.
- b. BrooklineCAN has 383 active members.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Finance – See Treasurer's report.
Frank thanked everyone who purchased his pottery. It was suggested that pottery be offered for sale at the Annual meeting. John asked for photos of pottery to post on the website and also to include in the newsletter.
- b. Communication – 1) Age Friendly TV show featured an interview with Brookline police chief and the Director of Community Service (Officer Mike Disario) who focuses on needs of older adults.
2) John: The website continues to feature all activities of BrooklineCAN
3) Media relations is preparing article about success of Age Friendly Brookline businesses. Elenore was able to get a quote from manager (Captain) at Trader Joe's.

- c. Membership – No chair, Ruthann is acting Membership chair. No one is taking notes/minutes.
 - 1) BrooklineCAN is participating in Inspo/Expo on MLK Day, Jan. 21 at Temple Kehillath Israel. We will be recruiting new members.
 - 2) Encouraging age-friendly businesses to become BrooklineCAN business members. Ruthann emphasized the importance of making personal appeals to businesses to join. Ruthann, for example, is reaching out to Brookline Bank. This needs attention from the Age-Friendly Business field team as it makes follow-up visits to businesses.
 - 3) Lapsed members, not renewing membership
 - 4) David planning “paper” reminder to members who lapsed July to November.
 - 5) Michael Allen, a staff member at the Senior Center, has volunteered to serve as the new producer for Age Friendly TV Show.
- d. Education –“Happiness is a Choice You Make: Lessons for a year among the oldest old” presented by author John Leland on April 25, 2019
- e. Member volunteering Alberta Lipson is updating the volunteer website to focus on opportunities close to Brookline.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2019 but likely to be changed because the scheduled date falls within school vacation week.