

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

July 20, 2016

Attendance: Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Karen Fischer, Marsha Frankel, Susan Granoff, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, and Roberta Winitzer. Guest: Peter Ames

New Members: Susan Granoff is representing the Livable Community Advocacy Committee. Roberta Lipson, who was unable to be at this meeting, is also joining Steering Committee representing the revived committee on Member Volunteering.

Annual Meeting: (1) Gary McCabe, who is being honored, has requested that we recognize not only him but the entire Board of Assessors. The other members are Harold Petersen and Mark Mazur. We have granted Gary his request. Harold Petersen and Mark Mazur have been invited. (2) BrooklineCAN accomplishments for the year will be highlighted in the program booklet; Frank shared with the committee a preliminary list of the accomplishments of the Livable Community Advocacy Committee, and he requests that other committees send input immediately to Kathy Burnes on proposed items for the listing. (3) The Annual Meeting Committee is considering the purchase of bags printed with information about BrooklineCAN to use as for gifts for attendees; due to the cost, the matter was brought to Steering Committee for approval. The committee voted not to authorize this purchase. There was also discussion about other ideas for promotional items. Frank will bring these ideas back to the Annual Meeting Committee.

E-Mail Blasts: We are having some technical problems with sending out email blasts with Vertical Response. John Seay says that he can create a template that will make the process easier. For the long run, John will look into other companies as alternatives to Vertical Response.

Printer Difficulties: The revised membership brochure was ready for printing in April, but the job has still not been completed by the printer. We are doing our best to straighten this out.

TRIPPS Funding: Very good news! We were waiting to hear about the second year of funding, and have recently learned that TRIPPS will be fully funded up to the level of our request. With this information, planning can proceed for next year.

Village-to-Village Network: A proposal was made in May for BrooklineCAN to join this network. The committee realized that more information was needed, so Elenore Parker and Kathy Burns looked into the network and what it offers. Elenore reported that they

do not believe that membership would be worthwhile as the network cannot do anything for us that we are not already doing for ourselves. The consensus of Steering Committee was that we should not pursue this further.

Brookline Day: Larz Anderson Park on Sunday, September 18. BrooklineCAN will, as in past years, have a table, most likely to be shared with Age-Friendly Cities. Frank welcomes ideas on ways to attract attention, and would like to have volunteers to staff the table for one or two hours of the four hour event.

Treasurer's Report. John Seay distributed the report on expenditures as of July 19. There has been very little activity in expenditures since the fiscal year is only a few weeks old.

Education Committee: The July 11 talk on Social Security was given to a packed house, showing that there is considerable interest in the topic. The speaker, Laurence Kolticoff, Boston University economist and presidential candidate received mixed reviews. Future programs will be offered on the topic to assure that we present balanced information on the topic. The next event on the schedule is a film at the Coolidge Corner Theatre on October 19, "Reel in the Closet", The film features LGBT home movies, videos, and other archival footage from the 1930s to 1980's, and stresses the importance of finding and restoring these films and videos. There will be a related reception and panel discussion at the Senior Center.

Member Volunteering Database: John reported that from the BrooklineCAN computer technology perspective, everything is in place to put the volunteer database up on the web with a link to the BrooklineCAN web site. We are awaiting some technical work on the part of the computer consultant who helped Alberta Lipson develop the data base.

Potential for Reviving Repairs and Referrals: As reported at the June meeting, we have found a volunteer interested in working on this activity. Still needed are additional volunteers so that a small committee can be formed. We will continue to seek such volunteers, and an article will be written about this in a future newsletter.

Livable Community Advocacy Committee / Age Friendly Cities: (1) Susan Granoff has been investigating Sudbury's local option circuit breaker for senior home owners to ameliorate tax problems for those with modest incomes. Susan is planning to propose a Warrant Article for Town Meeting to establish a study committee to determine the possibility of applying this approach to Brookline. (2) Save Stop & Shop campaign. The Town is considering totally eliminating the Stop & Shop on Harvard Street to build a new school. This would be a serious problem for the many residents without cars who rely on this supermarket, the only full-service one in the area. To address this concern, Susan is leading an effort to Save Stop & Shop. A web site has been set up, petitions are being circulated, and a meeting will be held on July 26. Susan distributed copies of

an eye-catching flyer that lists all this information, as well as names, phone numbers, and email addresses of Town officials to contact. (3) To address concerns about various aspects of the proposed KI senior housing proposal, the LCAC has invited representatives of the JCHE (Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly) to its monthly meeting on July 25 at 3 PM at the Senior Center.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 17 at 3 PM.

Notes prepared by Ruth Seidman and edited by Frank Caro