

September 1, 2021

Attendees:

Sonia Wong, Carol Seibert, David Trevvett, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Ruthann Dobek, Melissa Trevvett, Elenore Parker, Matt Weiss, Yolanda Rodriguez, Susan Granoff. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee.

1. American Recovery Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

- a. \$17M ARPA funds to Brookline seeking community input.
- b. Portal was set up to encourage community engagement.
- c. Discussion of priorities of older adults:
 - i. Transportation – Uber/Lyft support cut drastically
 - ii. Mental health job positions
 - iii. Jobs for/supporting older adults
 - iv. Food insecurity support
 - v. Technology – Including simulcast support, laptops
- d. All believe that COVID has had greatest impact on older adults.

2. Update on Springwell Area Agency on Aging (AAA) meeting 8/24

- a. The 4 year area plan draft is located here:
<http://springwell.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/08/Springwell-FFY-2022-2025-DRAFT-Area-Plan.pdf>
- b. Responses to the draft were due by 9/7.
- c. Priorities match Brookline priorities but feedback is welcome.
- d. Report to provide direction for the AAA efforts/funding.
- e. Based on the Older Americans Act – CoA is local and AAA is State and Federal.
- f. AAA no longer providing medical transportation – only local.

3. “All the Lonely People” film and campaign on loneliness

- a. Premier screening in Brookline at the Coolidge Corner Theater **December 9th, 2021** either in person or streaming
- b. Ongoing campaign to end social isolation – seeking BrooklineCAN sponsorship
- c. Committee addressing social isolation among older adults.
 - i. Ruthann Dobek is co-chair – Churches & Synagogues, Goddard, 2Life, HSL/CCB, Good Shepherd, Friendship Works, and Coolidge Corner Theatre.
 - ii. BrooklineCAN sponsorship requested
 - iii. Positive comments
 - iv. Communications Committee support
 - v. Agreed to support the goals of the campaign, request a specific name for the group.

4. Update on COVID-19 pandemic and impact of Delta variant on BSC operations including Autumn Benefit

- a. Ruthann – Delta variant, Dr. Jett leaving, booster shots needed, masks required indoors.
- b. Need to be cautious, flexible and patient.
- c. Newsletter article re guidelines and Senior Center matinees.
- d. Autumn Benefit not in person only virtual, but local businesses will distribute gift cards for donations, and Olive Connection will provide a gift box for top sponsors.
- e. David pointed out that in person meetings with masks impedes lip reading making virtual better for older adults and others.

5. (4A) Warrant Article on obstructions (WA6)

- a. Existing bylaw covers “placed” obstructions - 1 hour to fix.
- b. New bylaw includes “covered growth” (hedges) - 21 days to fix.
- c. Documentation re street obstruction bylaws and street lighting have both been submitted to the Transportation Board.
- d. Despite all improvement on Winchester Street no improvement on the lighting took place.
- e. Need LCAC support.

6. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. New fiscal year.
- b. 26 memberships 15 paid and 11 free as result of visits to 100 Centre Street and JF&CS.
- c. \$137 is split cost between Senior Center and BrooklineCAN in working with the CoC.
- d. \$5,000 donation in memory of Frank Caro is for health of BrooklineCAN rather than specifically for a memorial.

7. Committee reports

- a. Membership Melissa Trevvett
 - i. Because of the increasing incidence of COVID19 due to the Delta variant, the Committee decided to postpone the program planned for 10/4/2021, “Faces of Retirement.”.
 - ii. Ellen Bick and Marsha Frankel visited three senior residences and were well-received – there was strong interest shown in BrooklineCAN and in volunteering. One-year free memberships were started for 8 people at Brown House, 14 at 100 Centre St, and 7 at 1550 Beacon St. Ellen and Marsha may visit 112 Centre St.; they are waiting for a confirmation.
 - iii. Jude Kidd and Carol Caro wrote an article on volunteering options for the September 2021 Newsletter and received a response to help Carol with the Newsletter.

- iv. The Membership Committee meets again 9/9/2021, 3 pm.
 - v. Send new needs for volunteers to Membership Committee.
 - vi. Tommy Vitolo welcome packages will include BrooklineCAN brochures.
- b. Communications – Ruth Seidman
- i. Newsletter- Included articles on current and future status of Senior Center, volunteer needs now and going forward, event at Goddard House co-sponsored by BrooklineCAN, et. al.. (Need recommendation for numbers of paper Newsletters needed for distribution.)
 - ii. News Releases – NETA planned as next release, met with Rosaline Lowe to plan next steps re AFB (contacting new businesses and determining if existing AFBs are still viable).
 - iii. Website – Background color lightened with no objections.
 - iv. AFC-TV – Suggestions welcome for new shows.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy – Susan Granoff
- i. Summer hiatus taken.
 - ii. Next meeting Monday 9/13/2021 with Ruthann Dobek as guest speaker discussing CoA future goals, needs and wish list.
 - iii. Update on Col. Floyd and other construction plans and development proposals.
 - iv. David Trevvett will present Warrant Article at future meeting.
 - v. Open to suggestions re subjects/speakers.
- d. Education
- i. **September 23rd** – Dr. Budson speaking at Goddard
 - ii. Potential future program: Models of Homecare- Kendall, Lifecare Advocates, etc.
 - iii. Re-invite Harry Margolis- “Getting Your Ducks in Order”
 - iv. Elenore will prepare an email advising Goddard House to use BrooklineCAN rather than BCAN in their material.

8. Old & new business

- a. Potential Newsletter article on BrookOnline by David Trevvett.

9. Next meeting: **October 20th at 3:00 PM via Zoom**