

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

October 15, 2014

Attendance: Laura Baber, Kathy Burnes, Carol Caro, Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish and Karen Zweig

Possible BrooklineCAN Fellow(s). Kathy reported that funding is available within JF&CS that might support a BrooklineCAN fellow. She mentioned working with ReServe, a program that matches adults 55+ with non-profit organizations that can use their expertise. Projects requiring at least 10 hours per week and that last at least three months are appropriate for the program. The organization pays ReServe \$15/hour, of which \$10/hour goes to the "ReServist." Frank pointed out that supervision is a key element of success in such projects.

Possible BrooklineCAN projects mentioned are a sidewalk audit, updating and expanding the public restroom and condo/apartment guides, and working with the volunteer team planning the first membership forum in the spring of 2015. Kathy will send a template for a job posting.

Education. Four upcoming programs: for tonight's program with Dr. James Greenblatt, about 55 people have preregistered; the Repairs & Referrals Committee is sponsoring an educational program on household pests called "True Confessions" on Wednesday, October 22, starting at 5 pm in the Senior Center; "The Genius of Marian" will be screened November 13 at the Senior Center beginning at 4:30, with refreshments at 4; and March 26 is the date for an educational program featuring sex therapists.

Sign-in forms will be provided for tonight's session; they will go to the Membership Committee for follow-up. The Education Committee is asked to share the feedback forms, especially how attendees heard about the event, with the Membership Committee.

Livable Community Advocacy Committee. After many months of work, a hearing regarding extended on-street parking near the Senior Center is planned for Monday, November 3 at 3:30 pm at the Senior Center. On December 3, a forum for seniors on override proposals will begin at 3 pm in the Senior Center. Currently, the override proposals deal entirely with schools. Without an override, there may be cuts to services valued by seniors. Since a large percentage of Brookline households do not include school children, we expect a lot of questions from seniors and others who face a big property tax increase without benefitting directly from the schools. The committee may take positions on two Town Meeting proposals concerning taxi medallions. The fall Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18.; Committee members are divided in their opinions on the merits of taxi medallions. The issue will be discussed at the Committee's meeting on October 27 at 3 PM.

Membership. Today, we have 303 active (paid) members, up one since the September Steering Committee meeting. Twelve memberships and renewals came about either at or soon after the

Annual Meeting/Reception in September. The committee continues calling former members and both former members and non-members who attended the annual meeting. Membership presentations are scheduled at 100 Centre Street and 1550 Beacon.

The committee has two new members, Virginia LaPlante and Linda Cheren, who have agreed to put together a handout promoting membership for the November 18 special Town Meeting. The Committee will now meet at 3 pm the first Monday of each month at the Senior Center. Ellen Goodman has expressed willingness to work with us on framing the membership forum (yet to be named) planned for the spring.

Communications. The committee meets October 16 to put together the November newsletter. Two members are now working with Eleanor Parker on media relations. The website now rotates photos and proverbs on the home page, so that something different comes up every time someone accesses the page.

Professional service providers. A new member has joined the group, and one business represented in the group is closing. The guest speaker at the October 23 meeting works with seniors (and others) on managing paper.

Finance. The Annual Meeting cost a total \$3,010.56 and attracted \$1,166.01 in in-kind donations. The largest expenses were for the bar, the food and service. The largest in-kind donations were from Center Communities of Brookline, JF&CS, and the Senior Center.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 19 at 3:00 PM

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish