

FROM:



**BROOKLINE COMMUNITY AGING NETWORK**  
**(WWW.BROOKLINECAN.ORG)**

**Contacts:**

Elenore Parker  
617-232-6444

[media\\_releases@brooklinecan.org](mailto:media_releases@brooklinecan.org)

Ruthann Dobek  
617-730-2756

[rdobek@brooklinema.gov](mailto:rdobek@brooklinema.gov)

Frank Caro  
617-739-9228

[Frank.g.car@gmail.com](mailto:Frank.g.car@gmail.com)

**For immediate release, please**

**BROOKLINECAN (Brookline Community Aging Network)**  
**Key Accomplishments Achieved in 2016**

Brookline Community Aging Network – BrooklineCAN – a town-wide, all volunteer initiative founded in 2010, will celebrate its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on September 15. By pulling together resources in innovative ways, BrooklineCAN ensures seniors have the information and support needed to remain engaged in the life of the community. BrooklineCAN succeeds through advocacy, innovation, and collaboration.

Under the leadership of co-directors, Ruthann Dobek and Frank Caro, BrooklineCAN continues to influence policy on issues of interest and importance to seniors and Brookline residents of any age.

Following are some key accomplishments achieved by BrooklineCAN committees during this past year.

**Livable Community Committee**

- The Brookline Transportation Board voted to form a standing pedestrian committee for Brookline; the Board also approved free parking to Senior Center volunteers at two Town parking lots.
- DPW replaced sidewalks on Auburn Street based on the sidewalk audit completed by the BrooklineCAN Pedestrian Safety project.
- 50 street lighting problems for pedestrians were identified in North Brookline because of BrooklineCAN inspections.
- The pocket park at Green and John Streets was re-designed and refurbished with new plantings and handsome new benches.
- DPW mounted 100 “Walk Your Bike” signs on sidewalks in commercial areas on Beacon Street and Harvard Street.

**Communications Committee**

This past year saw the launch of the Age Friendly Cities TV program. Topics included transportation resources, Brookline Public Libraries, health services and Brookline parks.

A progress report on the Age Friendly City initiative was released this year. Along with Brookline Age Friendly Cities TV programs, the report may be viewed on the BrooklineCAN web site ([www.BrooklineCAN.org](http://www.BrooklineCAN.org)).

In addition, the Communications committee continues to keep members informed about activities and accomplishments through its monthly newsletter, news releases promoting committee activities and events, and its website ([www.BrooklineCAN.org](http://www.BrooklineCAN.org)), Twitter and Facebook.

### **Membership Committee**

In order to be more inclusive and eliminate barriers to membership, BrooklineCAN now offers discounted memberships for households with annual incomes of \$35,000 or less. The donation for this new type of membership is \$10 a year. BrooklineCAN has also created a New business membership level to be implemented during the coming year.

### **Education Committee**

BrooklineCAN sponsored six educational programs featuring experts on longevity, dealing with stress, Social Security, driving retirement, ageism, and home ownership challenges.

### **TRIPPS**

#### **(Transportation Resources, Information, Planning and Partnership for Seniors in Brookline And Newton, MA)**

Launched in 2015 through the leadership of BrooklineCAN, TRIPPS has had a great first year. TRIPPS offers a guide to local travel options in Greater Boston as well as individual support to residents of Brookline and Newton aged 60 and older. In its first year, TRIPPS staff and 13 trained volunteers assisted more than 50 seniors seeking help, researched transportation options, and facilitated dozens of outreach and education events in the community, including two panel discussions on driving retirement.

By providing information through its committees, BrooklineCAN helps residents remain engaged in the community.

America's older adult populations will reach 72 million or nearly 20 percent of the population in 2030. In Brookline, according to the 2010 census, 24 percent of the population -- or 14,182 residents -- are over the age of 55. Town residents, between the ages of 55 and 64, have increased by 40 percent since 2000.

Affiliated with the Brookline Senior Center, BrooklineCAN is an all-volunteer organization which enables older residents to remain independent and fully engaged in the life of the community. The organization advocates on behalf of Brookline's older residents, works with town agencies on behalf of Brookline's seniors, provides ways for members to contribute to the community, and in general acts to make Brookline an even better place to live for people of all ages.

For additional information about joining Brookline Community Aging Network and to request a copy of BrooklineCAN's informative monthly newsletter, visit <http://www.brooklineCAN.org> or call 617-730-2777.