

FROM:



**BROOKLINE COMMUNITY AGING NETWORK
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For immediate release, please

BROOKLINECAN (Brookline Community Aging Network) HOLDS 4TH ANNUAL MEETING:

Selectman Nancy Daly and Town Departments Honored for Leadership of Brookline Age-Friendly Initiative

On Wednesday, September 17, BrooklineCAN held its 4th Annual Meeting at the Brookline Senior Center. Nearly 175 people attended the meeting. Town selectmen and department representatives joined BrooklineCAN and Senior Center leaders in celebrating Brookline's participation in the World Health Organization's initiative to encourage age-friendly cities and towns.

Around the world there are 208 Age-Friendly initiatives and about 40 in the United States. Brookline was the first community in New England to participate in this important initiative.

BrooklineCAN co-chair Frank Caro pointed out that Brookline has had an excellent record of addressing the concerns of older residents. Participation in the initiative means that Brookline's many departments, commissions and committees will further highlight such features as transportation, pedestrian issues, safe housing, and involving older citizens in community affairs. These are issues that concern Brookline residents of all ages.

Awards were presented to Brookline officials who supported the Town's participation in the WHO Age-Friendly Cities initiative. Selectman Nancy Daly was honored for her strong leadership in guiding the process, along with Town Administrator Mel Kleckner and Selectmen Ken Goldstein and Neil Wishinski.

Other awards went to Roger Blood, Housing Advisory Board; Virginia Bullock, Building Department; Erin Gallagher, Public Works; Josh Safer, Transportation Board; Cynthia Snow, Bicycle Advisory Committee; Sara Nelson and Melissa Battite, Recreation Department; Gary McCabe, Assessor's Office; Phil Harrington, Police Department; Mark Jefferson, Fire Department; Alan Balsam, Health and Human Services; William McGroarty, Veterans Services; and Michael Burstein and Sara Slymon, Brookline Library.

The successful event was organized by the BrooklineCAN Planning Committee, which includes: Frank Caro, Kathy Burnes, Laura Baber, Ruthann Dobek, Shirley Partoll, Ellen Young, Matt Weiss, Henry Tanner Winkelman, Chris Chanyasulkit, Pamela Zelnick, and Roberta S. Winitzer.

The event was catered by Vine Ripe Grill and music was provided by the Brookline High School Music Collective.

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 Brookline Community Aging Network and to request a copy of BrooklineCAN's informative monthly newsletter, visit www.BrooklineCAN.org or call 617-730-2777.

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