

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes January 15, 2025

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Bea Mikulecky, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Sonia Wong. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Priorities/Activities for 2025 as discussed at Dec 2024 meeting

- a. Participate in CoA Director transition and work with new Director
 - i. See item 2.
- b. Support more secure funding for Council on Aging as senior population grows and needs increase
 - i. On-going advocacy work.
- c. Candidate Forum in the spring
 - i. Immediate project.
- d. Annual meeting in the fall
 - i. 13th anniversary of BrooklineCAN.
- e. Participate in offering educational events
 - i. Jamie and Ruth discussed.
- f. Continue efforts to engage and build membership; clarify role of the organization and communicate
 - i. Home page of BrooklineCAN website clarifies the role.
 - ii. Describes who we are, what we do, and links to other orgs.
- g. Seek ways to revitalize Age-Friendly Business Program

2. Update on Council on Aging Director's succession

- a. After New Year's Day Ashley Sheehan took another position.
- b. New viable candidate identified for 1/24 interview.
 - i. Selection committee will interview at Town Hall.
 - ii. Two CoA meetings in February – 1 interview and 2 vote.
 - iii. Followed by Select Board vote.
 - iv. Note there is a backup candidate if necessary.
- c. No new hire by 1/31 when Ruthann leaves.
 - i. New candidate still open to interviews.
 - ii. Starting Monday pressure is on Chas.
 - iii. Need agreement with Ruthann to cover the interim.

3. Discussion of Candidate's Forum 2025

- a. Select a date
 - i. April 10th Thursday 4-6pm.
- b. Select a moderator
 - i. Decide at next meeting.
- c. Choose a co-chair or committee
 - i. By next meeting.
- d. Timeline

- i. Election is 1st Tuesday in May.
- e. Contact League of Women Voters for co-sponsorship
 - i. Janet will contact LWV and determine who is LWV lead.

4. Update on Brookline's Comprehensive Plan

- a. Waiting on consultant report – late.

5. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Note twice yearly payment for Sandy's salary.
- b. Regular expense for newsletter.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership
 - i. No report.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – In process, email re LCAC for February needs to be in by 1/24. Inform public re work by LCAC and PAC re creation of Town portal for people to report near misses. Suggest articles re LCAC candidate meetings and PAC activities. Contribute streaming to recommend to the public.
 - ii. News Releases – Going forward re Candidate Forum.
 - iii. Website – Checkout home page BrooklineCAN description.
 - iv. AFC-TV – 2 shows: (1) Episode 50 with Ginger O'Day head of Putterham branch of the Library discussing older adult programs and a "Senior Center without walls" (2) Episode 51 with Maria Foster discussing transportation emphasizing South Brookline. Both available on BrooklineCAN website.
 - v. Social Media – BrooklineCAN is on a Facebook page and Group and an account on X (formerly Twitter). Matt will open a BrooklineCAN account on Blue Sky.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
 - i. MBTA Green Line update – Next two meetings will be candidates for Select Board.
 - ii. Next meeting is February 10th.
 - iii. Considering running an LCAC meeting series re "Spotlight on Senior Center services for older adults".
 - iv. Involve Program Coordinator of HELP Katie McClean.
 - v. Agreed to try this approach to informing older adults.
 - vi. Carol Caro presented the MBTA public hearing re changes to C line stations.

7. Old and New Business

- a. Tent ordered arrived – Broken.

8. Next Steering Committee Meeting: February 19, 2025 3PM via Zoom

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 1/15/2025: 184

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 12/16/2024: 186

BrooklineCAN Membership as of 11/18/2024: 186