

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes June 18, 2025

Attendees: Marilyn Benson, Carol Caro, Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Emily Williams, Sonia Wong. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Passing of Bea Mikulecky – Moment of silence and noted that obituary in Boston Globe is excellent. Special piece in summer BrooklineCAN newsletter about Bea and her work on the Communications Committee.

2. Priorities Review

- a. Participate in CoA Director transition and work with new Director
 - i. Ruth represented BrooklineCAN in the hiring process.
 - ii. Excellent choice – Emily Williams.
 - iii. Made Town Administrator aware of BrooklineCAN role.
- b. Support more funding for CoA as older adult population grows and needs increase
 - i. Raised awareness of Senior Center and its activities.
 - ii. Requested Emily to keep BrooklineCAN involved as budget process begins and proceeds and for specific requests.
 - iii. Requested Emily to address LCAC identifying needs.
 - iv. BrooklineCAN will support Emily in outreach.
 - v. Process begins in fall Sept./Oct.
- c. Candidates Forum in April
 - i. Successful event thanks to Janet Gelbart.
 - ii. Stress connections to LWV and other organizations.
 - iii. Neighborhood associations want to work with BrooklineCAN.
- d. Annual Meeting September 2025
 - i. Emily taking lead – Item 4.
- e. Participate in offering educational events
 - i. On-going basis with Senior Center staff.
 - ii. Have not moved forward this year.
 - iii. Keep as a goal for next year – need people power.
- f. Continue efforts to engage and build membership; clarify role of the organization and communicate it
 - i. Combination of membership work and communications.
 - ii. Progress includes reactivating the Membership Committee.
 - iii. Marilyn and Bea became Co-Chairs and started activities.
 - iv. Marilyn needs a Co-Chair.
 - v. Need to reach younger older adults (e.g., recently retired).
- g. Carol proposed participation in the Farmers Market.
 - i. Hadassah Margolis manages the schedule.

- ii. Location directly across from Clear Flour – excellent!
- iii. Brookline Day type of setup of booth.
- iv. July 24th is the date from 1-6:30PM.
- v. Carol will coordinate.
- vi. Need 2 people at all times (Carol, Ruth, Emily, David,
- h. Seek ways to revitalize Age-Friendly Business Program
 - i. Ruth – proposed adding it to next year's goals.
 - ii. New businesses and some no longer in business.
 - iii. Miriam Diamond from Senior Center would work on this again.
 - iv. Consider updating list of criteria with MetroBridge results.
 - v. Consider article in newsletter/Beacon asking for assistance.
- i. Begin planning for the coming year
 - i. Ruth & Emily will be formulating the goals and request help.
 - ii. Suggested – 1 major intergenerational event.

3. Vote on slate for FY 2026 Steering Committee

- a. Approved 10-0-0

4. Annual Meeting Thursday, September 18, 2025

- a. 1st planning meeting 6/26
 - i. Title and action items.
 - ii. Making connections with outside organizations.
 - iii. Send Emily names of organizations to table at the event.

5. Livable Community Advocacy Committee Discussion

- a. Co-Chair needed due to Susan's diminished availability.
- b. Need note taker to replace Janet.
 - i. Susan Cohen not available.
 - ii. Best would be a Co-Chair who takes notes.
 - iii. Carol review list of regular attendees from Janet for ideas.
 - iv. Suggested minutes of much less detail to attract note takers.
 - v. Put item in Beacon re need for Co-Chair/note taker.
- c. Discussed videos as substitute for detailed minutes.
 - i. Can keep videos on BrooklineCAN website.
 - ii. Consider getting a YouTube channel for BrooklineCAN.

6. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Sandy's ½ year salary reimbursement.
- b. Carol contact new member to determine involvement interest.
- c. Met Debbie & Anya of the Foundation taking over Sonia's work.
 - i. Work with Sandy entering payments through the Foundation.
 - ii. Use CharityCloud to manage Foundation funds.
 - iii. Discussion followed re how it all operates.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Membership
 - i. Discussion of renewal date resulting in agreement.

- ii. Late renewal – membership from payment date.
- iii. Early renewal – membership from current renewal date
- b. **Communication**
 - i. Newsletter – includes a short tribute to Bea and links to all of Bea’s Books Talk, Bingeing and Videos. Marilyn will stand in for Bea.
 - ii. News Releases – Bea did publicity so need person. Need new “Outreach Volunteer” to handle publicity.
 - iii. Website – No report.
 - iv. AFC-TV – Episode 54 is interview with Tommy Vitolo.
 - v. Social Media – No report.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
 - i. See item 5.

8. Old and New Business

- a. None.

9. Next Steering Committee meeting: July 16th, 2025 at 3 PM

BrooklineCAN Membership as of June meeting 179