# BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
# October 21, 2026

Attendees: Diane Abrams, Marilyn Benson, Susan Cohen, Susan Granoff, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss. Absent: Emily Williams, Sonia Wong.

1. **Meeting Minutes Review**
    a. Approved with correction of date.
2. **Treasurer's Report**
    a. John – You can find my treasurer's report here: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/tk46vz7vaesk7b8kkghtc/FY-2027-BrooklineCAN-financial-report.xlsm?rlkey=tkbnoy2cumn2y0xypxk3k8gs8&dl=0
3. **Projects**
    a. Fisher Hill West Property
        i. Attendees included people from the Senior Center, the Council on Aging, the Squeaky Wheels, and the Foundation,
        ii. BrooklineCAN Steering Committee attendees were Yolanda and Ruth.
        iii. Stantec Consultants ran meeting with approx. 50 attendees costly older adults.
        iv. Interests included South Brookline residents (want programming for older adults), some locals concerned with appearance and outdoor pool advocates.
        v. CoA wants a secondary senior center area where we can have it 24/7 as a designated senior center place where we can do the programming, have flexibility as to when we do whatever, and so on. If it's a part of the community center, that's fine as long as it's still a designated section or someplace that's just a Senior Center satellite.
        vi. Concept was intergenerational which is good but needs to include a designated space for use by the Senior Center.
        vii. Discussion took place about the Newton Senior (Cooper) Center.
        viii. Susan G. – **Question. Would we prefer to have something combined with a regular with a Community Center, or do we prefer a standalone Senior Center?**
        ix. Marilyn – Who makes the final decision on this?
        x. Susan G. & Yolanda – It would ultimately be a ballot question, and voters would have to vote on it.
    b. UMass Boston Needs Assessment Update
        i. No report.

c. Fall Forum on Aging
    i. Ruth – Happy with turnout and results.
    ii. Yolanda – It was terrific and Ruth did a terrific job in opening it up. It was an intense afternoon, with UMass people giving a wonderful presentation. They took questions, were exact about their figures, emphasized what needed emphasis. T They pointed out the six needs at tops of the chart.
    iii. Reps Tommy Vitolo, Greg Schwartz and Hohner.
    iv. Rep Stanley, the chair of the committee, was wonderful.
    v. It kept to the point and there was a lot of energy and, we had a couple of select board people there.
    vi. Need to get more Town department people there.
    vii. Ruth did a great job. It was just a great success.
    viii. David – Agreed with Yolanda comments.
    ix. Susan G. – Agreed. Said we should build on it because this is an opportunity to start dialogues with the community.
    x. Susan G. wants to see financial estimate for seniors who are not in good health as that that is a factor financially.
    xi. Susan C. would like to see a meeting on the cost of healthcare for seniors in the United States today.
    xii. Susan G. – Include the health department in this discussion and have them become more aware of senior concerns related to the impact of various health needs and the implications that it has for their department & the CoA.
    xiii. Ruth – Report indicated more to be done for those >80.
    xiv. CHIPS & Health Dept. tie in with CoA & older adult needs.
    xv. Need Town Depts. at AFCC meetings.
    xvi. Diane re there suggested a panel show re Health Dept.
    xvii. Use the Needs Assessment report as a basis for communication with Town Depts.
    xviii. Need to provide hard copy as well as online reports.
    xix. Suggested to put copies in senior housing.

**4. Committee Reports**

a. Membership (Marilyn Benson)
    i. See priorities.
b. Communications
    i. Newsletter – No report.
    ii. News releases and Outreach – No report.
    iii. Website and social media – (John Seay & Matt Weiss) – No report.
    iv. AFC-TV – (John Seay) – No report.
c. LCAC – (Susan Granoff)

i. No report.

d. Education
   i. See priorities discussion.

**5. Review of 2026 Priorities**

a. Advocate for Brookline's older adults emphasizing key areas identified by the Aging in the Town of Brookline Community Needs Assessment.
   i. 3 areas to address first are a) financial insecurity and housing expenses, b) transportation and accessibility, and c) social wellness and inclusion.
   ii. Yolanda – All depend on the sixth priority communication.
   iii. Ruth – Other 3 are d) Communication, e) current and future programs at the Brookline Senior Center, and f) Caregiving.
b. Continue to advocate for the senior center's needs as the town plans for the Fisher Hill property.
c. Replace the annual meeting with the Fall Forum – Done.
d. Continue exploring opportunities for collaboration with other like-minded groups and organizations.
   i. Neighbors Connect activities.
   ii. AARP Villages Movement.
   iii. Brookline Neighborhood Alliance.
   iv. Neighbors Connect organization annual meeting on Monday, November 16th 10:30am. Contact Emily if you would like to come and hear what's happening, with that organization and Emily is arranging the van as transportation. (Boston Lodge of the Elks, 1 Morrill Street in West Roxbury)
   v. Social activities in evening at Senior Center – Emily Trying to work out coverage and transportation.
e. Develop a membership education committee.
   i. With the senior center, present 3 programs, each based on one of the 3 key needs areas in the assessment study.
   ii. Marilyn head this up as both membership and education and work with Jamie to involve the senior center and it would tie in with the needs assessment study.
   iii. Yolanda volunteered to work on this.
   iv. Diane volunteered to work on this.
f. Continue to work on Age Friendly Business project.

g. Develop leadership for the LCAC.
h. Update the website.
i. Continue communications including newsletter, cable TV shows, social media and publicity.
j. Add Health for Older Adults.
    i. Diane – Alan Waxman did a wonderful, workshop, I think it was 12 or 15 sessions, where he did health apps that we can use to learn about health and monitor health.
    ii. He might be a good person to speak at the Forum if it's related to health (Yolanda agreed).
    iii. Susan C. - Jay Gaugencloss speak on health insurance..

**6. Create New Priorities for Future Year**

a. No discussion.
b. **Old and New Business**
    i. John add new members to Steering Committee list.
    ii. https://www.brooklinecan.org/about_us.html#people

**7. Next Steering Committee meeting: November 18th, 2026 at 3 PM**