

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes September 16, 2026

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

1. Meeting Minutes Review

- a. Correct date of this meeting to September 16, 3036.
 - i. Minutes approved with correction 8-0-0.

2. Treasurer's Report

- a. Note PayPal charges for each fee.
 - i. Visible due to BrooklineCAN having its own bank account.
 - ii. Note – No fees for savings account at Beacon Bank.
 - iii. Beacon Bank formerly Brookline Bank.

3. Projects

- a. UMass Boston Needs Assessment Update
 - i. Report was distributed to the entire committee.
 - ii. To be presented at the Fall Forum on 10/15.
- b. Brookline Day, Sunday, September 27th 11am to 3pm
 - i. Call for volunteers from committee for BrooklineCAN table.
 - ii. Matt & John 11-12pm.
 - iii. Susan & Susan 12-1pm.
 - iv. David & Melissa 1-3pm (Closing).
 - v. Sonia assist with opening & closing.
 - vi. Material includes flyers and newsletters and pens.
 - vii. Note – Newsletters are most popular.
 - viii. Susan G. – Select photos to post at table.
 - ix. Emily – Will provide the pictures on Sandy's laptop.
- c. Fall Forum, October 15th 4pm to 6pm.
 - i. Full presentation of Needs Assessment by Caitlin Coyle.
 - ii. Attending will also be Kathy Burns and Nancy Mozonson.
 - iii. Senator Crème and Jalen cannot attend.
 - iv. Committee decided to invite Tommy Vitolo & Greg Schwartz.
 - v. Added Reps. MacGregor and Honan.
 - vi. Note – Limit speaking time for Reps.
 - vii. Moderators – Ruth and Emily.
 - viii. Format – 4-6pm & 4-5pm so few minutes at the beginning for Reps. then researchers up to 45 minutes then lots of time for Q&A and advocacy.
 - ix. Membership table – Marilyn at table to recruit people.
 - x. BIG – Matt to contact BIG to set up coverage.
- d. Party of a Century Centenarian – Celebration October 19th.

- i. Invited over 100 residents from the census.
- ii. May be inaccurate and some may be deceased.
- iii. We have 3 who are over 100 but just lost 1.
- iv. BrooklineCAN table will be there.
- v. 1pm on Monday 10/19.
- vi. Diane & John will assist.
- vii. Emily will send 100 year old census info to the committee.
- viii. Diane will check HSL for 100 year old residents.
- ix. Diane will check 2Life for 100 year old residents.
- x. Emily has reached out to Goddard.

4. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Marilyn Benson)
 - i. Discussed raising membership dues to \$40 from \$35.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – Ready for publication at end of the month.
(Note the newsletter does not use Publisher and is not impacted by the termination of Publisher.)
 - ii. News releases and Outreach – No report.
 - iii. Website and social media – (John Seay & Matt Weiss) – No report.
 - iv. AFC-TV – (John Seay) – Booked Tommy Vitolo to talk about the Protect Act. Scheduled for October 12th taping.
- c. LCAC & Notetaker – (Susan Granoff)
 - i. Susan announced stepping down.
 - ii. As of now LCAC is on hiatus but can continue in name only.
 - iii. Purpose – To advocate for and inform older adults.
 - iv. Meets first or second Monday of each month, starting at 3 o'clock and running till 4:30pm.
 - v. Intention to influence decisionmakers in Brookline.
 - vi. Attendees are BrooklineCAN members, recipients of BrooklineCAN newsletter and any one else that requests attendance.
 - vii. Extensive discussion re how it works and potential for future expansion.
- d. Education
 - i. Rebirth the Education committee.
 - ii. Discussion as to possible talks sponsored by BrooklineCAN.
 - iii. Afternoon talks at Senior Center would be best.
 - iv. Marilyn is setting up Ruth Nemzoff for April/May.

- v. Diane suggested Alan Waxman re AI.

5. Review of 2026 Priorities

- a. Based on the results of the comprehensive needs assessment to be conducted in the first part of the year in partnership with researchers from the UMass Boston Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, advocate for increased support for Brookline's older adult population.
- b. Bring in new members and encourage greater participation by current members. Re-activate the Membership Committee, possibly re-envisioning it as Membership/Education/Programming, and consider some type of membership drive.
- c. Present the Candidate Forum in April prior to the May Town elections with the possibility of also addressing issues such as the override.
 - i. Successful and will continue for next few years.
- d. Consider alternative approaches for the Annual Meeting.
- e. Continue revitalization of the Age Friendly Business project.
 - i. Carol Caro has enlisted a number of people to work on this and has added many new businesses.
 - ii. Team requested a list of the people involved in the project.
 - iii. Add Age Friendly Business project to agenda going forward.
- f. Explore opportunities for partners and sponsors.
 - i. Activities with Neighbors Connect.

6. Create New Priorities for Future Year

- a. Bring new ideas or things we can do better to the next meeting.

7. Old and New Business

8. Next Steering Committee meeting: September 16th, 2026 at 3 PM