

Brookline Community Aging Network

Livable Community Advocacy Committee

Agenda

January 7, 2019

Attendance: : Frank Caro, Susan Cohen, John Harris, Lydia Kaufman, Carol Siebert, Vera Sharma, Ann Stitt, David Trevvett, and Asaya Zimbov

1. John Harris spoke about plans for Climate Action week in early April. He invited us to develop a program on impact of climate change for health of older people.
2. Street lighting for pedestrians. We discussed a proposed warrant article calling for creation of a Select Board committee to study expansion of pedestrian friendly street lighting. The committee would consider development of a plan for gradual extension of pedestrian friendly street lighting with emphasis on streets with more pedestrian traffic. The improved street lighting would be financed through the Town's capital improvement program. Frank Caro is seeking informal feedback on the proposal with expectation of submitting the article for the annual Town Meeting in May. Two substantive suggestions emerged from the discussion: 1. Attention to street crossings and 2. Committee would be expected to establish priorities for its recommendations.
3. Benches along sidewalks. We reviewed a proposal drafted by Frank Caro seeking to expand the number of benches along the sidewalks in Brookline. The proposal calls for creation of an entity in the Department of Public works that would be responsible for handling requests for new benches. The unit would review proposals for benches. When bench proposals are approved the unit would seek public or private funds to pay for the benches. The unit would publicize its effort to expand the bench supply, inform the public about procedures to apply for benches, establish criteria for reviewing proposals, maintain benches, keep an inventory of benches, and provide a map showing the location of benches. A volunteer committee like the Pedestrian Advisory Committee is being proposed to assist the program. The Parks and Open Space Division has the competence to administer the program. The proposal may or may not lead to a warrant article.
4. Frank reported that the Parks and Open Space Division is now considering installing one or two benches in the public space at the Harvard Street and Stearns Road intersection. The space presents a challenge because of the curved shape of the paving and the slope. Erin Gallentine's staff will develop an approach to install benches at that location. The project will be done when there is staff time.

5. Kent-Station Street senior affordable housing proposal: The study committee has approved a request for proposals. The Select Board will consider the RFP and is expected to authorize its release.
6. Update on Age-Friendly business campaign. The Age-Friendly Business campaign has ended its active recruitment phase. New participants will continue to be accepted. Participating businesses will be revisited to reinforce their commitment to the age-friendly cause. A Coolidge Corner Merchants association shopping map now identifies age-friendly businesses. Copies of the map are available at the Senior Center.
7. Nesterly will lead a workshop on shared housing on January 10 at 1 PM at the Senior Center. The main audience is seniors with extra space in their homes that they might be willing to rent to graduate students.
8. Meg Robertson of the Commission for the Blind will speak at the Pedestrian Advisory committee meeting on January 9. The focus will be on walking opportunities for those who are blind. The PedAC has been attuned to this issue because of challenges in crossing Beacon Street in some locations.
9. The committee will meet again on Monday, February 4 at 3:00 PM at the Senior Center. Meeting.

Notes prepared by Frank Caro