

December 15, 2021

Attendees: Katherine Burnes, Ruthann Dobek, Susan Granoff, Elenore Parker, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Carol Seibert, Ruth Seidman, Melissa Trevvett, David Trevvett, Matt Weiss, Sonia Wong, Jude Kidd.

1. “All the Lonely People” film and campaign on loneliness

- a. Ruthann Dobek reported on a successful showing and publicity.
- b. Article in the Globe (Dana Gerber) December 10 edition.
- c. Attendance: approximately 200 in person and 300 streaming.
- d. Included a panel discussion (local physician Dr. Jeremy Noble).
- e. Discussion included types and approaches to deal with loneliness including a “happy-to-chat bench”.
- f. Proceeds were divided between local and national needs.
- g. Considered “1st time screening world-wide NOT “world premiere.
- h. Still editing, e.g., included mention of omicron.

2. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

- a. Update on state funding
 - i. Ruthann reported.
 - ii. State funds including \$100K for CoA passed but does not impact disbursement of local funding.
 - iii. Not clear on the process or priorities of local ARPA funding.
 - iv. Not clear as to the purpose and goals of Brookline Community Foundation with reference to ARPA.
- b. Review of Focus Group – Wednesday Dec 1, 2:30pm
 - i. Focus group held at Senior Center December 1st.
 - ii. Notes taken by BFC but not distributed as of today.
 - iii. Jude offered to call Giselle for an update on the process.
 - iv. Two proposals submitted by CoA: Food insecurity and transportation.
 - v. CoA is working on proposal for a social worker.
- c. Susan Granoff reported on the Brookline Improvement Coalition:
 - i. BIC President Deborah Brown proposed a repair program for homeowners of low (& moderate?) income.
 - ii. “Grants” up to \$2,500 for those deemed eligible with “loan” for any amount beyond the \$2,500.
 - iii. BIC would like BrooklineCAN to be a partner in the program.
 - iv. Question: Is BIC infrastructure able to assist older residents?
 - v. Question: How does this one-time grant tie into a long term program?

3. BrooklineCAN Age-Friendly Business Program

- a. Discussion regarding future of the program
 - i. Recognize existing age-friendly businesses and encourage them and others to do more and join our AFB list.
 - ii. JF&CS would support a resource for AFB through June.
 - iii. Should AFB be a committee, sub-committee, or other?
 - iv. Ruthann will organize a group of people including Rosaline to review the AFB data base and reach out to new AFBs.
 - v. Someone from this committee should also be involved.
 - vi. Person involved should be a member or become a member of BrooklineCAN.
 - vii. Elenore will follow up with the group formed by Ruthann.
 - viii. Kathy pointed out that BrooklineCAN is the face of age-friendly Brookline to the world.
 - ix. David pointed out that AFB is one program in a broad array of age-friendly Brookline activities.
- b. Collaboration on follow up with Town's brochure addressing accessibility
 - i. No discussion.
- c. Please review the Age-Friendly Business material found on our website
 - i. Information on the on the program on our web site link below:
 - ii. https://www.brooklinecan.org/age_friendly_business.html

4. COVID pandemic continues

- a. Ruthann – Remember we are still dealing with COVID.
- b. Susan – Older adults need tests especially if income limitations since they are the largest portion of deaths by far from COVID.
- c. Ruthann will forward the statistics provided by Susan to the Health Department to make tests and boosters a priority for older adults.
- d. Note booster shots are essential but not easy to get.

5. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Note \$2,500 for "All the Lonely People" gold sponsorship.
- b. No issues.

6. Committee reports

- a. Membership – Jude Kidd
 - i. AFC-TV Episode 34 on BrooklineCAN very successful.
 - ii. Excellent for use at senior housing and other presentations.
 - iii. Time to set up next meeting of Membership Committee to discuss next steps.
- b. Communications – Ruth Seidman

- i. Newsletter – Mention the AFC-TV membership show, discuss need for booster shots,
 - ii. News Releases – produced “All the Lonely People” release.
 - iii. Website – Nothing to report.
 - iv. AFC-TV – Episode 34 was successful in support of BrooklineCAN Membership Committee (membership report).
 - v. BCAN is a four-letter word and should not be used.
- c. Livable Communities – Discussion of November Town Meeting Warrant Articles
- i. Next meeting of the LCAC will take place 1/10/2022.
 - ii. No further news re November Town Meeting.
 - iii. Note that all Town Meeting Members will be up for election and most precincts have been realigned and there are now 17 precincts rather than 16 as in the past.
 - iv. Select Board will need a new member to replace Raul Fernandez who resigned in order to run for State Representative against Tommy Vitolo.
 - v. Information re precincts posted on the Town Clerk’s website.
- d. Education
- i. No report.

7. Old & new business – Issues with Post Office

- a. None.

8. Next meeting: January 19th at 3:00 PM via Zoom