

**December 16, 2020**

Attendees:

John Seay, Ruthann Dobek, Ruth Seidman, Elenore Parker, Matthew Weiss, David Trevvett, Melissa Trevvett, Yolanda Rodriguez, Susan Granoff, Katherine Burnes.

**1. Note Taker** Matthew Weiss

**2. Update on Age-Friendly Business initiative**

- a. Volunteer to update database – Matthew Weiss/Elenore Parker.
- b. Volunteer to review accuracy of our current AFB's – Elenore.
- c. Other businesses to feature in news articles – Elenore.
- d. Notes
  - i. Katherine Burnes – Explore additional funding for AFB work.
  - ii. AFB reflects business aspirations and current conditions.
  - iii. Note – need to reach out to Jerry Feuer to become involved.
  - iv. Note – consider comment and response on web site from people who find errors or additional information re AFBs.

**3. Discussion of goals, roles and responsibilities short and long-term - BrooklineCAN**

- a. First "Winter Retreat" session is now scheduled from 10am to Noon on January 22, 2021 and second session two hours at 10am to Noon on January 29, 2021.
  - i. Plan to involve overall membership after the retreats.
  - ii. Question: What are the needs not covered by other organizations.
  - iii. Ruthann Dobek – Coordinate with Katherine and invite Carol Seibert.
  - iv. Matthew agreed to take notes at the retreats/sessions.
  - v. Suggested additional attendees: Carol Seibert, Paula Friedman, Bea Mikulecky

**4. Update on “Building a Better Brookline” program (Ruth & Elenore)**

- a. Ruth – 10-15 people in several meetings with Carol Caro and Ruth setting up representatives from older adults.
- b. Ruth – Focus on what needs for housing for older adults in Brookline that are not being met.
- c. Ruth – CHAPA running meetings with Building a Better Brookline.
- d. Ruth – Date not yet set but Ruthann will provided representatives from the CoA/Senior Center once date set.

**5. Center Communities plans for 108-120 Centre St.**

- a. 108 Centre St. – 45 affordable units and 10,000 sq. ft. for Senior Center activity.
- b. 120 Centre St. – 9 to 10 stories of marketable rate housing (100 units) independent and assisted living.
- c. Committee is advised to track these plans and progress.

#### **6. Pedestrian Advisory Committee update (David)**

- a. Need for information re sidewalk encroaching hedges and construction to provide data to follow up with DPW.
- b. Problem and reporting should increase in the spring.
- c. Report any sightings/issue by email to David.

#### **7. Call to Action – Combat Ageism**

- a. Ruthann – Described situation in which many Town Meeting members and residents are unaware of the existence of older adults in financial need in Brookline.
- b. Susan Granoff – Indicated that Select Board members have little awareness of senior issues, saying the Town should not help people who made “poor choices”.
- c. Discussion followed with differences of opinion expressed.
- d. Role of BrooklineCAN was discussed and is expected to be included in the “Winter Retreat”.
- e. Susan – Paula Friedman and Susan considering on forming a senior advocacy group that is political (e.g. Senior Political Action Caucus).

#### **8. Update on Fall Town Meeting (Susan)**

- a. Six meetings in marathon session with over 40 warrant articles.
- b. Article 13 approved 5:1 after lengthy debate.
- c. Town Clerk was voted to become an appointed position rather than elected subject to voter approval.
- d. Opt in to Community Preservation Act with a 1% tax surcharge exempting low and moderate income home owners also subject to voter approval.
- e. Stipends for Select Board Members and School Board members was voted down.
- f. Approval of override of over \$33M for High School expansion.
- g. Approval of funding for Newbury West parcel for nearly \$15M.
- h. Trash bills will go up 25%.
- i. New appraisal values – condos up 1.1% and homes up 5.9%.

#### **9. Treasurers report (John Seay)**

- a. John reported movement into the black as is usual this time of year with no issues.

#### **10. Committee reports**

- a. Communications

- i. Newsletter – Articles re Katharine Esty and a number of other articles.
- ii. News releases – No report.
- iii. Website – John suggested checking out website changes.
- b. Livable Community
  - i. John requested minutes for publication on website.
  - ii. Trying to move forward with Carol Seibert and Paula Friedman.
  - iii. Plan to discuss how to deal with Town government.
- c. Education
  - i. Katharine Esty- Tuesday, January 19 at 2 PM. “How the Elderly Can Continue to Live Fulfilled, Happy Lives Despite the Challenges of Aging and COVID”

**11. Next Meeting**

- a. January 22, 2021 10am – Rethinking BrooklineCAN

**12. Old & new business**