

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes February 21, 2024

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Bea Mikulecky, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Carol Seibert, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Sonia Wong. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN goals and priorities 2024

- a. Member recruiting ideas
 - i. Add social portion to author events – No BrooklineCAN author events in next two months, but a planned event could possibly be designated a BrooklineCAN event.
 - ii. Consider recruiting at the Candidates Forum.
- b. LCAC recruiting, voting, advocacy.
 - i. Recruiting – Attendee joined and now making a pitch in the middle of the meetings for new members.
 - ii. Voting – Changed issue vote requirements: 51% to 75%.
 - iii. Limiting voting to residents rather than elected or Town staff.
 - iv. Voting is LCAC not BrooklineCAN as a whole but would be considered BrooklineCAN backing by most people.
 - v. Possibility of a vote helps attract speakers for support.
 - vi. No vote but feedback from attendees is also attraction.
 - vii. Limit vote to subjects that directly affect older adults.
 - viii. Limit vote to BrooklineCAN members at LCAC meeting.
 - ix. Have list available if someone is not sure of membership.
 - x. Note – Voting only impacts a few LCAC meetings each year.
- c. Suggestion – Steering Committee voting on LCAC issues – LCAC can vote to present an issue to the Steering Committee for endorsement and steering committee can vote via email.
 - i. **Finalize approach at March Meeting.**

2. Candidates Forum 2024 – Wednesday, April 17th at 4:00 PM

- a. Update on February 9th planning meeting
 - i. Michael Allen's last time as moderator - leaving CoA in May.
 - ii. Voted to gift Michael in thanks for moderator work.

3. Discussion regarding how to advertise Livable Communities Select Board candidates

- a. Susan – First two Select Board candidates LCAC presentation was not announced in the BrooklineCAN newsletter.
 - i. Considered special edition but would need to handle next 2 Select Board candidates the same way.
 - ii. Communications Committee planned big story re both LCAC candidate sessions, but would seem to favor second pair.

- iii. Best would be a special edition for both candidate sessions.
- b. Communications Committee – Newsletter article would refer to first candidate session with links to videos on website.
 - i. Both LCAC sessions available on BrooklineCAN website.
 - ii. Both LCAC minutes available on BrooklineCAN website.

4. Update on Brookline's AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

- a. See linked document – Fostering Aging in Place
[AARPFostering_Aging_in_Place.pdf](#)
 - i. Need to pay attention to AARP livable community notices/information.
 - ii. Advise all to checkout AARP website.
 - iii. Pedestrian lighting and other age-friendly items.

5. JF&CS updates

- a. Renee Markus Hodin, Division Director, Services for Older Adults
- b. Sponsorship of Creative Art Programming for Brookline older adults – Earmark cut 50% by Governor of Massachusetts.

6. Goodbye to Carol Seibert

- a. Carol is moving to Hingham and will be missed.
 - i. Continue as liaison to LWV re Candidates Forum.
 - ii. Last Steering Committee meeting.

7. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Regular expense for newsletter printing.
- b. Running in the red using reserve which is good sized.
- c. Need increased membership.

8. Committee reports

- a. Membership
 - i. Need to discuss membership table at Candidates Forum.
 - ii. Subject to be raised in March.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – Need to describe Town Moderator role; Neighborhood associations; Women's History Month; save-the-date for Candidates Forum.
 - ii. News Releases – No report.
 - iii. Website – check it out.
 - iv. AFC-TV – No report.
 - v. Social Media – No report.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
 - i. February meeting – Janet reported on two Select Board candidates with Q&A opportunity to compare answers;

LCAC list is about 100 and notes and video link will be sent to all which should help drive membership; March meeting is next 2 candidates; April meeting might have discussion of Town Moderator role; considering Bicycle Advisory Committee to discuss micro-mobility and pedestrian safety.

- ii. All encouraged to come to the hearing on the CoA budget.
 - iii. Monday evening March 4th.
 - iv. Registration information to LCAC mailing list.
- d. Education
- i. No report.

9. Old & new business

- a. Katie McClean will present the PARC program to the CoA on March 13th 1PM.
 - i. Proposed change to PARC to assign parking permit to residents rather than caregivers.

10. Next Steering Committee: March 20th, 2024 3pm

- a. Note question of April 17th meeting time conflict with Candidates Forum

11. Save the date:

- a. Brookline Day – Sunday September 8th, 2024