

## **BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes March 20, 2024**

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Beatrice Mikulecky, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Carol Seibert, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Sonia Wong. Staff: Julie Washburn

### **1. Ruthann's retirement**

- a. Intention is to retire in 2024 and have overlap with new Director.
  - i. Ruthann worked for the Town for 41 years.
  - ii. Ruthann was project leader building the Senior Center.
  - iii. Ruthann appointed Director January 2002.
  - iv. Ruthann is 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior Center Director since formed in 1955.
  - v. Since 1955 1 of 3 Directors chosen via search committee.
- b. Town Administrator will appoint new Director of Senior Center.
  - i. Need to get appropriate people on the search committee.
  - ii. Need to send a letter to Chas Carey that BrooklineCAN wants a say on the committee based on the fact that the BrooklineCAN guideline makes the Senior Center Director the BrooklineCAN Co-Chair.
- c. Letter drafters
  - i. Ruthann
  - ii. Yolanda
  - iii. Ruth
  - iv. David
  - v. Susan

### **2. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN goals and priorities 2024**

- a. Follow-up on last month's discussion re: BrooklineCAN Steering Committee being the responsible entity for supporting issues
  - i. Recommend as many Steering Committee members as possible attend any LCAC meeting where there might be a vote to recommend an issue to the Steering Committee.
  - ii. Difficult to limit vote at LCAC to BrooklineCAN members.
  - iii. Susan – Rare that a vote is taken and usually related to specific Warrant Articles.
  - iv. Ruth – Steering Committee can decide not to vote on the recommendation.
  - v. Janet – Vote at LCAC should only be a “sense of the room”.
  - vi. John – Agrees to “sense of the room”.
  - vii. David – Likes “sense of the room”.
  - viii. Next meeting – WA12 and WA? (Workoff Program and Accessory Dwelling)

- ix. **Statement of meeting “LCAC Chair will request a "sense of the room" as to whether BrooklineCAN should support a position. If the sense of the room is yes, the Steering Committee will immediately be presented with a statement of the position and will immediately thereafter vote via email.”**
- x. What Susan should say to candidates and petitioners when she invites them to LCAC meetings: **"LCAC is the arm of BrooklineCAN that engages with Town representatives, candidates, petitioners and others on Town matters, fosters dialogue between them and BrooklineCAN members, and as appropriate makes recommendations to Brookline leadership that the organization support particular positions, for instance on warrant articles relevant to seniors."**
- b. Discussion on obtaining feedback from BrooklineCAN members on priorities and ways to meet these needs.
  - i. No discussion.

### **3. April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30PM Feet First Group**

- a. Opportunity for BrooklineCAN member to attend
  - i. Ruthann is speaking representing BrooklineCAN.
  - ii. Others welcome to join Ruthann at the meeting.
  - iii. Meeting is on Zoom.

### **4. Candidates Forum 2024 – Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**

- a. Discussion of follow-up items
  - i. Carol Seibert – Continue as Liaison between LWV and BrooklineCAN on this project.
  - ii. Carol will arrive at 3pm on 4/17 to help with setup.
  - iii. LWV – Voters Guide at table and postcard with digital link to the Voters Guide and link to BIG recording.
  - iv. Dianna McClure is chair of LWV and Communications Director of LWV and doing LWV Forum publicity.
  - v. Table for TMM and HA material.
  - vi. Sending out flyers and Ruthann distributing them.
  - vii. Save the date on the website and flyer added by tomorrow.
  - viii. Michael Allen farewell gift – Ruth and Ruthann to follow up.
- b. Membership table will need volunteers
  - i. Janet, David.
  - ii. Should be separate from Voters Guide table.
  - iii. Brookline Day materials including latest newsletter.
  - iv. Brochures will be placed on each chair.

- c. Possibility of moving BrooklineCAN Steering Committee meeting to April 17<sup>th</sup> at 2PM as a Hybrid option
  - i. Try to finish in 1 hour.

#### **5. Election night video**

- a. Request by Tommy Vitolo for us to make a 2-3 minute video that is fun and engaging about BrooklineCAN.
  - i. John will find pictures, e.g., Tommy with arm around Matt.
  - ii. Matt will talk over the pictures.
  - iii. Open to “fun and engaging” stories to include.

#### **6. BrooklineCAN Nominating Committee**

- a. Seeking committee members
  - i. Ruth, John, Ruthann.
- b. Formal review process for May and June meetings
  - i. April – Name Nominating Committee members.
  - ii. May – Report on slate.
  - iii. June – Vote.
  - iv. July – New Steering Committee starts.

#### **7. Town Meeting May 28, 2024**

- a. Update on Warrant Articles
  - i. No report.
- b. Warrant Article 12
  - i. Submitted by: Director of Finance and Council on Aging  
Director – The Town’s successful Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program currently allows 35 residents over the age of 60 years to reduce their real estate taxes by a maximum of \$1,875 annually, provided they meet certain income requirements. This article would adopt new state legislation approved last autumn allowing the maximum tax reduction for program participants to be \$2,000 annually. The Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program provides needed tax relief to seniors living on fixed incomes, while also providing the Town with skilled workers for specific tasks.
- c. Warrant Article on accessory dwelling units.

#### **8. Update on Brookline’s AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities**

- a. ARTICLE: “We want to go, but there are no options”: Exploring barriers and facilitators of transportation among diverse older adults <https://agefriendlyportal.aarp.org/blogs/dalan-hwang1/2024/02/26/we-want-to-go-but-there-are-no-options-exploring-b>

- b. ARTICLE: We're Not Asking the Most Important Questions About Age <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/06/opinion/biden-aging-america-population.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>
- c. ARTICLE: Rising suicide risk among seniors due to loneliness, mobility, financial insecurity, study finds <https://www.mcknightshomecare.com/rising-suicide-risk-among-seniors-due-to-loneliness-mobility-financial-insecurity-study-finds/>

## 9. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Normal newsletter and other costs plus
  - i. Annual fee to the non-profit services organization.
- b. Dropped 30 member renewals since beginning of the year.

## 10. Committee reports

- a. Membership
  - i. No report.
- b. Communications
  - i. Newsletter – See monthly newsletter.
  - ii. News Releases – Flyer for Candidates Forum.
  - iii. Website – Nominating Committee and officer term endings.
  - iv. AFC-TV – Next planned is Assessor and Town Financial Director.
  - v. Social Media – No report.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
  - i. Next meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup> (later changed to April 16<sup>th</sup>).
  - ii. Guest is Sana Hafeez.
- d. Education
  - i. No report.

## 11. Old & new business

- a. David Trevvett reported people over 65 are 17% of the Massachusetts population but are 32% of pedestrian fatalities.

## 12. Next Steering Committee: \*\*\*\*\*

## 13. Save the date:

- a. Brookline Day – Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024