

# **Age-Friendly City Committee**

## **Accomplishments in 2016 and Plans for 2017**

### **Committee Members**

Nancy Daly, Board of Selectmen, Co-Chair  
Ruthann Dobek, Council on Aging, Co-Chair  
Frank Caro, BrooklineCAN, Co-Chair  
Saralynn Allaire  
Lloyd Gellineau  
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Matthew Weiss  
Roberta Winitzer  
Henry Winkelman

**April 2017**

# Age-Friendly City Committee

## Accomplishments in 2016 and Plans for 2017

Topic	Accomplishments in 2016	Plans for 2017
<b>Housing</b>	<p>The fall Town Meeting approved a formal exploration of an affordable senior housing development above the town-owned parking lot between Kent Street and Station Street in Brookline Village.</p> <p>We supported the Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly’s proposal for an affordable senior housing development on the Temple KI site on Harvard Street near Coolidge Corner.</p>	<p>Continue to advance the proposed the Kent Street-Station Street affordable senior housing development</p> <p>Explore other opportunities for affordable senior housing, including possible using air-rights above Town-owned parking lots.</p> <p>Through public education, promote creative uses of Brookline’s housing stock to strengthen the options for seniors to live successfully in the Town. (Accessory dwelling units are among the examples of creative use of existing housing.)</p>
Transportation	<p>TRIPPS, an advisory service offering information on local travel options (other than driving), completed its first year of service to Brookline and Newton residents. The program is supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The program was awarded second-year funding.</p>	<p>Increase the numbers of consumers served by the TRIPPS program and continue development of plans for state-wide replication of this pilot program.</p> <p>Assure that the standing pedestrian advisory committee approved by the Transportation Board in 2016 is appointed and begins its activities.</p>

	<p>On the basis of advocacy from the Age-Friendly City committee, the Brookline Transportation Board approved creation of a standing pedestrian advisory committee. The Board of Selectmen approved a Complete Streets Policy for Brookline that incorporates strong pedestrian features sought by the Age-Friendly City committee.</p>	<p>Encourage the Board of Selectmen to put in place a strong implementation plan for the Complete Streets Policy that was adopted in 2016.</p>
<p>Information dissemination</p>	<p>The Age-Friendly Cities TV produced by the Age-Friendly City committee and shown on BIG channels delivered 5 new shows on topics including the Brookline Commission on Disability, the Brookline Board of Selectmen, Brookline Parks, the TRIPPS travel advisory service, and the Brookline Public Library.</p> <p>The Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations continues to offer a Lego display in Town Hall that features the various Age-Friendly themes in Brookline. The display changes seasonally.</p> <p>Through BrooklineCAN's newsletter and web site, information was disseminated about age-friendly programs and services offered by the Town.</p>	<p>The Age-Friendly Cities TV will produce a minimum of 5 new shows. Housing options for seniors will be a major emphasis.</p> <p>The Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations will continue to offer a Lego display in Town Hall that features the various Age-Friendly themes in Brookline. The display will continue to change seasonally.</p> <p>BrooklineCAN will continue to publicize the Town's age-friendly services through its newsletter and web-site.</p>

Community participation	The Recreation Department's Point-of-Sale fee structure implemented in 2013 continues to provide opportunities for seniors to swim, skate, and enroll in other health & wellness activities at a 35% discount from advertised fees.	The Recreation Department will continue to offer programs to seniors at a discounted rate.
Employment and volunteering	<p>Through the Council on Aging, the Town offers a part-time, temporary employment program for 10 seniors who live in rental housing. The program is similar to the popular property-tax work off program for low-income senior home owners.</p> <p>The Council on Aging and BrooklineCAN have developed a new internet data base on volunteer opportunities in the Boston area.</p>	We will advocate for expanded Town funding of the employment program for senior renters.
Health	The Brookline Health Department coordinates the Emergency Preparedness Buddies program. The program matches volunteers with vulnerable elders to improve protection in case of emergencies. The program is the first of its kind in the nation.	BrooklineCAN will continue to publicize Health Department preventive health programs through its newsletter and web site
Library	Modifications have been made to the Main Library and the Coolidge Corner Library to make them more accessible to low-vision seniors.	The library will continue to provide one-to-one training sessions for members of the community of all ages to help with use of technology based services such as e-books and audio books.

	<p>The garden at the Putterham library has been rebuilt to make it ADA compliant.</p>	<p>The furniture and remaining plantings will be installed in the spring at the Putterham Library garden.</p> <p>The library and the Building department will install an elevator in the Coolidge Corner Library to improve access to the meeting room.</p>
<p>Parks and Open Space</p>	<p>The 10-acre Fisher Hill Reservoir Park with many age-friendly features was opened in the summer of 2016.</p> <p>Renovation of a pocket park with age-friendly features at the corner of Green Street and John Street near Coolidge Corner was completed in 2016</p>	<p>The Age-Friendly City committee and the Parks and Open Space Division will publish a brochure on age-friendly features of Brookline parks.</p>
<p>Property tax abatement</p>	<p>The fall 2016 Town Meeting approved formation of a Selectmen’s committee to recommend measures to strengthen property tax relief for low-and-moderate-income senior home-owners.</p>	<p>The Selectmen’s committee on property tax relief for low-and-moderate-income senior home-owners will make recommendations to the fall Town Meeting.</p>
<p>Public Safety</p>	<p>The Brookline Fire Department introduced a Smoke Alarm Installation Program at no charge to participating seniors.</p> <p>Brookline police officers have participated in a new dementia-friendly training program that is mandated by the State of Massachusetts as part of their continuing education.</p>	<p>The Brookline Police Department will continue to offer its tracking program for those at risk of wandering.</p>

Veterans Services	In 2016, the Brookline Office of Veterans' Services continued to provide direct emergency financial assistance to veterans and their spouses, over half of which were seniors.	The Office of Veteran's Services will continue to offer emergency financial assistance to veterans and their spouses.
Brookline Commission on Disabilities	<p>The Commission identified some on-street Handicapped Parking spaces were blocked on the passenger side by objects on adjacent sidewalk areas. The Commission has initiated steps leading to relocation of these spaces.</p> <p>The Commission has initiated efforts to get Accessible Pedestrian Traffic signals installed to aid seniors with blindness.</p> <p>The Commission is seeking to improve Van-Accessible handicapped parking in public parking lots.</p>	<p>Assure that the Department of Public Works relocates the passenger-unfriendly on-street Handicapped Parking spaces identified by the Commission.</p> <p>Work with the Department of Public Works, developers of local projects and the Planning Department to get an Accessible Pedestrian Traffic signal installed at the Williams Street and Centre Street intersection to aid seniors with blindness. Determine plan for placing these signals at other intersections.</p> <p>Assure that the Department of Public Works improves the Van-Accessible handicapped parking in the Centre Street lot.</p> <p>Continue to address access issues throughout the Town.</p>