

# Brookline Community Aging Network

## *Livable Community Advocacy Committee*

### **Notes**

April 23, 2018

Attendance: Alex Beck, Frank Caro, Susan Cohen, Jerry Feuer, Susan Granoff, Carol Seibert, Ruthann Sneider, Ann Stitt, Melissa Trevvett, Matt Weiss. Guests: Yolanda Rodriguez and Rhoda Goodwin.

1. Jules Levine and Ponnie Katz are former LCAC members who died recently. Jules was one of the original members. He was a lawyer who taught in the Law School at B.U. When he joined the committee, Jules was a candidate for Congress seeking to replace Barney Frank. Ponnie Katz was a long-time Town Meeting member who joined the committee when she moved to 100 Center Street.
2. Warrant Article 25, Proposal for Brookline Circuit breaker for senior homeowners. Susan Granoff provided a thorough report on her experiences with the Select Board and the Advisory Committee. Both have recommended favorable action. However, the Advisory Committee has recommended an amendment that would fix the maximum amount of tax relief that a senior might obtain from the Town. The Committee voted unanimously to support Susan's proposal as submitted.
3. Warrant Article 26 Proposal for a means-tested, property tax exemption from overrides and debt exclusions for older seniors. Yolanda Rodriguez and Rhoda Goodwin provided a report on their experiences with the Advisory Committee and the Select Board. Both have recommended "No Action." Uncertainty about the potential cost to the Town and reluctance to shift the tax burden from one group to another are major reasons for the cool response to the proposal. LCAC encourages Yolanda and Rhoda to request referral to a Moderator's committee. Our rationale is that Town Meeting is not like to vote favorable action. Referral to a committee will help to keep the topic alive. In this case, a Moderator's committee might be more supportive than the Select Board's committee was last year.
4. LCAC recommendation on Override & Debt Exclusion proposals. Committee members are divided in their support for the Override and Debt Exclusion. For that reason, the committee chose not to take a position on the proposals.
5. Election forum: April 26
  - a. Questions for Select Board candidates. We identified committee members who will ask questions about issues highly important to seniors. Melissa Trevvett will

call on three committee members first who will ask questions about affordability for seniors of living in Brookline, need for increased affordable housing for seniors, and need for expansion of the senior center.

- b. Questions for School committee candidates. We discussed potential questions for School Committee candidates.
  - c. Jerry Feuer has joined Melissa, Susan Granoff, and Carol Seibert as volunteers who will assist with the election forum
6. Frank brought a loan copy for the committee of the book *Walkable City* by Jeff Speck
  7. Next meeting: Monday, June 4, Guest Sara Nelson from Recreation Department

Notes by Frank Caro