

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

January 18, 2017

Attendance: Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Marsha Frankel, Susan Granoff, Susan Krinsky, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Roberta Winitzer; guest: Peter Ames

Committee for BrooklineCAN 2017 (annual meeting). Ruthann, Roberta, Frank, and Molly volunteered to serve, and Molly said she would ask David Trevvett. Frank will invite Matt Weiss and Henry Winkelman to serve again.

JCHE/HSL Brookline Master Plan. Ruthann and Roberta recently attended a meeting on the affordable senior housing development being planned by Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly (JCHE) for the corner of Harvard and Williams Streets (on Kehillath Israel property). Because the new building will have very limited community space, residents will need to make extensive use of resources elsewhere in and near Coolidge Corner. JCHE expects that residents of the new development will make extensive use of the Senior Center. JCHE and HSL have an interest in improvements in the walking path between HSL and the rear of the Senior Center. Because JCHE will limit its building to seniors without automobiles, its residents will have reason to use the TRIPPS program services. JCHE may want to collaborate with BrooklineCAN on educational programs. The consulting firm Civic Moxie is working with JCHE and HSL on the project. A consultant referred to Coolidge Corner as “Jewish Boston.” We are concerned that the “Jewish Boston” theme is inconsistent with Brookline’s emphasis on diversity and inclusion. The next step is another meeting.

Treasurer’s Report. As of January 13, 2017, we have a total reserve of \$17,641. Questions were asked about how membership renewals are going and about Sustaining Memberships (3 years), which contributed to an income surge in FY 2015 Molly and John will share numbers at the February meeting. The new expense since the last meeting was printing of mailers for the membership drive (\$180). John will research whether BrooklineCAN may be listed as one of the charities eligible for Amazon Smile donations and whether new and renewing members can choose to have their annual membership renewed automatically through PayPal.

Committee reports

Finance. Ruthann will convene members of the Finance Committee, which will meet in March.

Community volunteering. The link to the volunteer database (brooklinevolunteers.org) now appears on the BrooklineCAN website. From the home page, select “Get Involved” and then “Volunteer-Community.” Alberta is working on fixing broken links.

Membership. Today, we have 344 active members, down from 349 in December. A mailer designed to go to former members and to people who have signed in at our events (total of 300) is being processed with individual handwritten notes. The plan is to mail them by the end of the

month. The Membership Committee is also planning an event for Thursday, May 18 designed for members and prospective members with the theme “How to Stay Young While Growing Older and Have Fun Doing It.” To cover cost for food, beverages, materials, etc., a budget of \$500 was approved.

Communications. The Committee is at work on the February newsletter and on publicity for the Reunion Project. Members of the committee will work with those planning the May 18 event on publicity.

Education. The Reunion Project reception at the Senior Center is April 20, 6-8 p.m. Frank meets Monday with the committee to discuss a program on creative use of “extra” housing space.

Livable community advocacy / Age friendly city. Susan Granoff reported on the current status of initiatives that were proposed in warrant articles passed by previous Town Meetings: (1) the property tax study committee chaired by Selectman Ben Franco includes both Susan and Frank; (2) the procedure for granting waivers to the required use of toters for Hybrid Pay-as-You-Throw garbage collection is now known, with physical disability and geographic limitations (i.e., number of stairs to be traversed) as factors that could lead to a waiver; (3) the Selectmen have appointed members of the committee to oversee development of the affordable senior housing development using air rights above the Kent-Station Street parking lot. The January 30 committee meeting will focus on advocacy issues that have been uncovered in the implementation of TRIPPS.

New Business. The Town budget presentation is scheduled for February 14, and department heads have been advised to expect cuts. The meeting will be broadcast on BIG.

Next meeting. Wednesday, February 15, at 3:00 PM. Future meetings (third Wednesdays at 3) are March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 21.

Notes prepared by Molly Turkish