

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

November 16, 2016

Attendance: Frank Caro, Karen Fischer, Marsha Frankel, Susan Granoff, Susan Krinsky, Michelle LaPointe, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss, Roberta Winitzer; guest: Peter Ames

Item to consider: less frequent Steering Committee meetings. Because agendas have been light, Frank asked the Committee to consider whether less frequent (than monthly) meetings make sense. Among the advantages of having regular monthly meetings are information sharing and the opportunity to consider expenditures after face-to-face discussion. If monthly meetings are not held, alternatives include having an Executive Committee make necessary decisions and providing for votes by email. Today's discussion was designed to open up the topic and put it on the table; further discussion will occur as appropriate. Skipping meetings in July and/or August and near the winter holidays were mentioned positively.

Update on TRIPPS. A few copies of the new Senior Transportation Resource Guide were distributed. The brand new guide includes profiles of over 30 options, including information on cost, hours, coverage areas, eligibility, accessibility, contact details, and more. Information about the guide and details of TRIPPS activities are available at <http://trippsmass.org/>.

Treasurer's Report. As of November 15, fiscal year 2017 is on budget. For the fiscal year, we show a loss of \$3,136, an improvement compared to a month ago. Our largest expenses (annual meeting and brochure) needed to be paid before many membership donations come in. We have \$20,049 in reserves. Committee members requested year-to-date comparisons.

Committee reports

Repairs and Referrals. The committee is working to bring things up to date. A question arose about how the committee should be listed in our materials and the website, including name, which has varied. If we intend to communicate effectively, we need to decide on a name that then should be used consistently. John will ask the committee.

Member volunteering. Frank reported on a message from Alberta who informed him that her effort to update the database has been delayed because of difficulty in obtaining access to the data base. John will email her about how to get to it. Anyone who would like to look at the database should go to <http://brooklinevolunteers.org/>. (After the meeting, Alberta confirmed that she now has access to the data base and will proceed with the updating of the information in the data base.)

Membership. Today, there are 355 active members, down 10 from October. So far, there seems to be no change related to the former members who are being contacted by members of the Steering Committee. Three members of the Steering Committee still have former members to follow-up with. Molly asked that they tell her what they hear about membership. The small number of former members receiving follow-up by Steering Committee members is a concern.

The Membership Committee is planning two initiatives: a mailing in January to former members and to individual who sign-in at our events for whom we have or can get mailing addresses and an event in May designed for members and prospective members. The Membership Committee requests a budget of \$350 to cover printing and postage for the mailing, which was approved. The concept for the May event is being developed and a budget request will be coming.

Other membership news: return address labels have been ordered, and a presentation for residents of 100 Centre Street will be organized by Molly.

Communications. The December issue of the newsletter is in the works. The housing series and “Book Talk” will continue. The next Age-Friendly TV show is soon to be taped with Saralynn Allaire, chair of Brookline’s Commission on Disability. Some taping has been done outside that will be incorporated into the program, in a departure from past shows. The show will air November 23.

Education. The showing of “Reel in the Closet” at the Coolidge Corner Theater on October 19 was very successful; the theater was sold out. Attendance at the November 9th program “Falling Short: the Coming Retirement Crisis and What to do About It” at Goddard House was somewhat depressed by results of the election the day before. The speaker was good and engaged the audience in very positive ways. A session on scams is planned for early 2017 at Goddard House with tentative dates of Saturday January 28, snow date February 4. Also in the works is a program on the Reunion Project based at Brandeis University.

Professional Service Providers Group (PSPG). The group will meet December 8, and the topic is yet to be identified. Suggestions were offered.

Livable community advocacy / Age friendly city. (1) The sidewalk lighting project is using the app “BrookOnLine” to pinpoint the location of problematic situations. Follow-up visits to areas identified earlier with problems found some progress and some areas still needing attention. (2) Members of the new Pedestrian Committee are being recruited; we are encouraging interested residents to apply. (3) The additional stop on bus route 51 at Dudley Triangle suggested several years ago required a concrete “landing pad” that is now in place. Town engineer Peter Ditto is asking the MBTA to institute the new stop, which will be popular with people who want to walk in the reservoir area. (4) The two Town Meeting warrant articles supported by BrooklineCAN (33- to create a committee to study property-tax relief for lower income seniors, and 34-planning affordable senior housing above a town-owned parking lot in Brookline Village) may be voted on as soon as tonight. (Both proposals January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 21.were approved on November 16 by Town Meeting by wide margins.)

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 21, at 3:00 PM. Future meetings (third Wednesdays at 3) are January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 21.

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish