

# BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

## Notes

June 17, 2015

**Attendance:** Peter Ames, Kathy Burnes, Carol Caro, Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Karen Fischer, Susan Krinsky, Michelle LaPointe, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss, Roberta Winitzer, and Karen Zweig.

**Introductions.** New and continuing members of the Steering Committee introduced themselves.

**Finance report.** Membership donations for FY2015 total \$15,930, and expenses have been \$12,014; we expect a few changes before June 30. Our reserve funds total \$20 thousand.

**Departure of Karen Zweig.** Frank acknowledged Karen as the first chair of Membership, the founding chair of the Professional Service Providers Group, and first Treasurer. She encouraged Steering Committee members to participate in recruiting and retaining members (not leaving it to the Membership Committee) and to plan for succession (how will we replace ourselves?). The group thanked Karen for her leadership and four years of service. Her term ends June 30.

**Annual meeting.** Preparations for the Annual Meeting September 17 (5-7 p.m. at the Senior Center) are moving forward. Former Governor Michael Dukakis will be honored. The emphasis now is on sending out “save-the-date” notices. An article about the annual meeting will appear in the July/August newsletter. An e-mail blast is also in preparation.

**Professional Service Providers Group (PSPG).** Beth Levine, who took over a hearing business from Lee Mark, spoke May 14.

**Education.** Lisa D’Ambrosio from the MIT age lab will be speaking about “Disruptive Demographics: How Our Aging Population is Re-Envisioning Longevity” tomorrow at the Senior Center. Attendance is expected to be large.

**Membership.** Today, we have 343 active/paid members, one more than at the time of the May meeting. Molly pointed out that we also have 261 former members and asked Steering Committee members to consider “signing” emails and letters to former members. Carol offered to review the list to identify 20 or so she would follow-up with personally. Molly will circulate the list to the Steering Committee so that others can join Carol in personal follow-up. The Membership Committee plans a membership event for May 2016, and Judith Kidd has agreed to chair for a second year.

**Communications.** The July/August issue of the newsletter will be distributed July 1. The website is featuring the Innovator of the Year Award presented by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging to Ruthann, Frank, and BrooklineCAN (three “large trophies” were presented at the recent meeting of MCOA), and a press release is being prepared.

**Livable Community Advocacy Committee.** The budget approved at Town Meeting includes \$10,000 for an employment program for renters that BrooklineCAN, Frank, and Ruthann worked on getting approved for a number of years. Allison Steinfeld, Brookline Planning Director, is meeting with the committee June 29 (3 p.m. at 90 Longwood) to discuss zoning studies and senior housing in south Brookline. Erin Gallentine, director of Brookline Parks and Open Space will speak to the Committee at either the July or September meeting. A session for Town Meeting Members in precincts 9 and 11 on a parking proposal from Transportation Administrator Todd Kirrane concerning extending parking near the Senior Center is planned for July 7 at 7.

As a continuation of the project conducted by ReServist Janet Selcer, a meeting is scheduled for June 30 at 3 p.m. in room 111 of Town Hall when residents of Brookline Housing Authority senior housing will speak with Department of Public Works Commissioner Andrew Pappastergion about pedestrian issues.

**Age Friendly City Initiative.** The STRAITS proposal was featured in a poster presentation yesterday at UMass Boston organized by Shirley Selhub of the advisory committee. A Lego presentation put together by Chris Chanyasulkit of the Public Health Department on healthy living for seniors in the summer at can be seen at Town Hall. A series of TV programs on Brookline's age-friendly features has been launched. The programs are hosted by Matt, and organized by Roberta with Henry Winkelman. The first two programs are available on our website and are being shown on BIG Thursdays at 7 pm: (1) Frank and Nancy Daly discussing what the Age-Friendly City Initiative is, and (2) John Dempsey of the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Melissa Battite, assistant director of Recreation. The third program, on Brookline public libraries, is planned for September.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, July 15 at 3:00 PM.

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish