

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

May 21, 2014

Attendance: Kathy Burnes, John Seay, Peter Ames, Molly Turlish, Ruthann Dobek, Elenore Parker, Karen Zweig, and Frank Caro. (Both Carol Caro and Laura Baber had conflicting activities.)

Nominating committee report. The Nominating committee has made some progress in finding officers and executive committee members. The committee will nominate Frank Caro to serve as Co-chair. He has agreed to serve. Molly Turlish agreed to serve as either Treasurer or Vice-chair. We need one other officer. The committee has been concentrating on finding candidates for at-large members of the Executive Committee. We discussed possible candidates for the five at-large seats.

Elevator Speech. Molly distributed the elevator speech prepared by the Membership committee. The language is as follows:

Brookline Community Aging Network – BrooklineCAN – is an innovative, all-volunteer organization. We provide important information for older residents to help them remain engaged in the life of the community. We work with town agencies on behalf of Brookline’s seniors.

We recommended that the language be reviewed by the Communications committee.

Frank reported that as a representative of the Livable Community Advocacy committee, he has been using somewhat different language:

BrooklineCAN focuses on Brookline as a great place for older people to live. We call attention to Brookline’s outstanding features. We advocate to make Brookline an even better place to live for seniors and everyone else.

We agreed that each of us should have an elevator speech with which we are comfortable. We acknowledged that there will be some differences among us in the language that we use.

Complete Streets forum June 12. With the Green Caucus, we are a lead sponsor of the Complete Streets forum on June 12. Frank would like us to publicize the event in the June newsletter. (Frank will contact the editors of the newsletter.) Frank will circulate an electronic copy of the flyer for the forum. We want to encourage members to attend. Frank would like us to have a table at the forum where we will offer BrooklineCAN brochures. Frank will be asking John to provide links on our website to background documents about Complete Streets. Frank will provide John with some explanatory text that can be used in organizing the section.

Education Committee. We discussed the recent program on eldercare. Ruthann commented on the effective job that Ann Hartstein did as chair. Attendees were asked to write their questions on note cards. Ann consolidated the overlapping questions.

The program was video recorded by BIG.

The program elicited a great deal of public interest. The program was very well attended but there were empty seats. Advance registration was required even though the event was free of charge. Registration was closed off because interest greatly exceeded available space. Our policy is to assure that those who register get seats. We allow some over enrollment but have difficulty un judging how much over enrollment to allow.

Volunteers at the Senior Center who answer the phones do not like to take contact information for those who are turned away when they seek to register for programs.

We had a sign-in sheet at the program to identify attendees who are interested in membership. We need to locate the sheet and make it available to the Membership committee. We need a better working relationship between the Membership and Education committees.

A program will be offered in the fall in conjunction with the Repair and Referrals committee. The program will be concerned with control of unwanted household creatures: rats, mice, bats, bed bugs, roaches, and so on.

Membership. The committee will be distributing brochures before the first session of Town Meeting on May 27. A new supply of membership brochures is needed. A new version has been prepared; the committee is hopeful that the new version of the brochure will be available for distribution at Town Meeting.

Age-Friendly City. The committee made a recent presentation to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee is asking that 1) the Town place signs at the major entrances to the Town indicating that Brookline is an age-friendly city, 2) Town departments cooperate with us on the celebration of Brookline’s age-friendly designation at our annual meeting in September, and 3) the Board of Selectmen convene representatives of several departments and committees to consider creation a district with enhanced pedestrian-friendly features.

Livable Community. We are getting visibility with a warrant article calling for prompt, proactive enforcement in the commercial areas of the Town’s snow removal policies on sidewalks.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 18 at 3:00 PM