

# Brookline Community Aging Network

## *Livable Community Advocacy Committee*

### **Notes**

October 29, 2018

Attendance: Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Susan Granoff, John Harris, Lydia Kaufman, Hugh Mattison, David Trevvett, Ruth Ann Sneider, Matt Weiss, and Asaya Zimboff

1. **Update on motorized scooters.** Hugh Mattison reported that the Town is about to launch a formal trial of rental services for motorized scooters. The scooters have been available for the public to try at several events and locations including Corey Hill, Lars Anderson Park, and the Farmer's Market. Two companies are involved Lime and Bird. The scooters that will be available for rental are scooters that will be unacceptable for many if not most seniors. The scooters will have narrow floor boards and will lack seats. Frank reported that users of rental services will be informed that the scooters must be operated in the streets, preferably in bicycle lanes. The Transportation Board is expected to pass traffic regulations prohibiting operation of motorized scooters and motorized bicycles on sidewalks.

Motorized scooters that are safer for seniors are available for purchase. Safer scooters have seats and wider floor boards. Some have three wheels. The three-wheel scooters are currently marketed for seniors with disabilities. Some include baskets that can be used for carrying items. John has been trying to arrange for trials of these safer scooters.

John Harris reported that the term "micromobility" is being used for a wide range of travel options that include various forms of motorized scooters and bicycles with electric motors.

2. **Funding of subsidized transportation for seniors.** We reviewed the need for stronger funding for subsidized transportation for seniors touching on both the weaknesses in funding for the BETS program and the promising new privately-financed program to provide ride-sharing services to seniors. We have learned of a new potential funding source: the State assessment on transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft. The Town receives \$.10 per ride that originates in Brookline. This year the Town has received \$207,000 from this source. The State has identified several ways in which the funds may be spent. The options include "other programs that support alternative

modes of transportation.” Frank plans to go to the next Transportation Board meeting to ask the Board to provide the Council on Aging with an opportunity to review current subsidized transportation services for seniors in Brookline and to make the case for use of some of the money from this source in future years to help finance subsidized transportation for seniors. Frank will simply be making a request to the Board to discuss this matter at a future meeting.

3. **Lighting on pedestrian paths.** Frank asked for volunteers to help in the next week or two to examine the adequacy of street lighting on the Town’s designated paths. He wants to walk the paths at dusk while there are still some leaves on trees. We want to check out a complaint about the lighting on the paths.
4. **Home sharing update.** Frank called attention to a feature article in a recent Boston Globe on a successful Nesterly match. Frank also called attention to a play at the Lyric Stage entitled “Roommate” currently being performed at the Lyric Stage. A comedy, the play is about a middle aged woman who for the first time shares her home with another woman of a similar age.
5. **Kent-Station Street senior affordable senior housing proposal** asked committee members to attend an upcoming public meeting on the proposed Kent Street-Station Street affordable senior housing project. Neighbors are expected to complain about adverse impacts on their neighborhood. Senior advocates are needed to speak to the need for an expanded supply of affordable housing for seniors.
6. **Age-friendly business consumer priority survey.** Frank asked committee members to answer a question in an on-line survey regarding the relative importance of features businesses may offer to be age friendly. The survey question is accessible electronically from the BrooklineCAN website and the on-line version of the newsletter.
7. Agenda items on benches and sidewalk lighting were deferred to the next meeting.
8. The **next meeting** will be held on Monday November 26.

Notes prepared by Frank Caro