

April 20, 2022

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Susan Granoff, Jude Kidd, Elenore Parker, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Carol Seibert, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Melissa Trevvett, Matt Weiss, Sonia Wong.

1. Discussion of Co-Host Responsibilities (for next Agenda)

- a. Admitting participants
 - i. John Seay is co-host
 - ii. No waiting room required.
 - iii. Discussion followed re the workings of the meeting on Zoom.
- b. Closing the meeting
 - i. John – “end” meeting for recording save.

2. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

- a. Submission Review Committee site:
<https://www.brooklinema.gov/2103/American-Rescue-Plan-Submission-Review-C>
 - i. Ruthann Dobek – Reported 3 of 4 Counsel on Aging (CoA) proposals were funded but John VonScoyoc when informed of the missing IT funding at the Age Friendly Cities Committee (AFCC) meeting was able to include it.
 - ii. Ruthann – Additional mental health support and Asian isolation outreach for older adult Asians were not approved but will be submitted for the cycle.
 - iii. Note – John V. is liaison to CoA and AFCC, but Bernard Greene is budget liaison for CoA.
 - iv. David Trevvett – Reported pedestrian lighting not funded.
 - v. David – Pedestrian lighting funding will be resubmitted.
 - vi. David – Pedestrian lighting helps all Brookline residents but especially older adults but was in infrastructure budget.
 - vii. David – Pedestrian Lighting should be part of budget for vulnerable populations.
 - viii. David – Vision Zero – Town commitment to all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

3. Review of Candidates Forum April 12

- a. Consensus – It went well.
- b. Question not asked – “Every department in Town is running short of funds, so what would you do about that.”
- c. David – Perhaps we should put together a file of past questions to be available for the next forum. (Note – Always should ask hard questions)

- d. John – Forum video is available on the BrooklineCAN website.
- e. Susan Granoff – Consider sending written questions to candidates prior to the forum and requesting written answers to be published on the website.
- f. Matt Weiss – Note John VanScoyoc newsletter provides an extensive discussion re the Town budget.
- g. Ruth – Expressed appreciation to all who worked on the forum. (Carol Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Bea Mikulecky, Matt Weiss, Ann Theis/BIG)

4. Discussion of how to get senior vote out

- a. BrooklinCAN newsletter, Senior Center newsletter, LWV Voters Guide on the LWVV website.
- b. Carol Seibert – LWV voters guide asked two questions of each candidate and responses were revealing with a 97% return rate.
- c. Carol – Incumbents listed how many Town Meetings attended.
- d. Susan – Need link from Town website to voters guide.
- e. John – Link now available on BrooklineCAN website to guide.
- f. Newsletter described process for getting absentee ballots.
- g. Matt – Per John V. large numbers of older adult candidates.
- h. Carol – Will contact Town to put LWVV guide link on website.

5. Status of Application to AARP as an Age-Friendly Community

- a. Matt – No progress.

6. BrooklineCAN's Age-Friendly Business Program

- a. Discussion regarding future of the program
 - i. No discussion.
- b. Collaboration on follow up with Town's brochure addressing accessibility
 - i. No report.
- c. Grant progress from JF&CS

Please reference the Age-Friendly material found on website:

https://www.brooklinecan.org/age_friendly_business.html

- i. John – Received regular trickle of updates to website.

7. BU Projects

- a. BU's MetroBridge Program – Matt
 - i. Per Jude Kidd – Mixup with BU senior where they appeared to believe the projects involved the redesign of our website, which was never introduced or discussed.
 - ii. MetroBridge then canceled the project with no explanation.
 - iii. Project was how to increase membership using the annual meeting as a basis.

- iv. Matt – Should be open to future such projects.
- b. Review of BU's Public Health Project April 11th Interviews – Ruthann
 - i. Interviews took place, but no feedback at this time.
 - ii. No sense of process.
 - iii. Ongoing issue re Town reorganization of social services.

8. Treasurers (John)

- a. Took in more than expended but nothing remarkable.
- b. Note – Yearly statements available on BrooklineCAN website.

9. Committee reports

- a. Membership
 - i. BU project ended.
 - ii. Next meeting to plan for fall event on September 15th 5-7pm (Ellen Bick and Marsha) which is in person with video material produced by BIG for later viewing.
 - iii. Ellen Bick, Jude and Ruthann will attend the next in the speaker series at Goddard with BrooklineCAN travel bag...
 - iv. May 24th will be covered by Carol Caro and Melissa.
 - v. "Let's Get Physical" June 15th covered by Melissa and Janet.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – Reminder on Town election, 2nd in Speaker series, articles re other Senior Center programs, other activities in Town, Historical Society tour, and series on Brookline parks (1st is Amory Park Halls Pond bird watching event). Add Town Meeting information to Upcoming Events.
 - ii. News Releases – Tiny Hangers most recent release.
 - iii. Website – No report.
 - iv. AFC-TV – James Pouliot Town Web Developer is guest on Episode 36 discussing new website to be rolled out in next couple of months. Major issue is the need for an information disseminator on the Town website rather than services only. Discussion agreed on need for communications vehicle on a Town wide basis.
- c. Livable Communities – Carol Seibert reported.
 - i. April 4th was last meeting with Alexandra Vecchio Director of Parks and Open Spaces.
 - ii. Subject was parklets and the extension this summer to additional parklets at Peet's Coffee and near Starbucks in Brookline Village.

- iii. Next meeting is on Zoom May 9th on Warrant Article 30 re the new Kent St.-Station St. project introduced by Jeff Wachter and Carol Caro.
- iv. People will be speaking on both sides of the issue related to required parking spaces and associated cost.
- v. Of special interest to older adults.
- d. Education
 - i. **Talk Topic:** “I’m Getting Older Too”: Challenges and Benefits Experienced by Very Old Parents and Their Children Speaker: Elizabeth Gallagher April 27, 5:30PM at Goddard House
 - ii. Stephen Post- “Dignity for Deeply Forgetful People” scheduled **May 24 at 5:30PM** at Brookline Senior Center.
 - iii. Jane Fleishman- “Let’s Get Physical: Biopsychosocial Aspects of Sexuality and Aging” **Wed, June 15th from 1:30PM-3PM**
 - iv. Re-invite Harry Margolis- “Getting Your Ducks in Order”.
 - v. “All the Lonely People” update.

10. Old & new business

- a. Carol Seibert – Reported that the League of Women Voter’s (LMV) election guide has just been published and will be in the TAB as well as other methods of distribution.
- b. Ruthann reported that Kathy Burnes has given her notice of retirement from JF&CS.
 - i. Staying on until the end of September.
- c. Ruth reported the Senior Center Fitness Center has reopened.

11. Next meeting: Wednesday, May 18th