

**January 19, 2022**

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

## **1. Welcome to Emily Rindermann**

- a. Ruthann Dobek
  - i. Emily is a doctoral student doing her capstone project with Johnson & Wales University at the Senior Center.
  - ii. Project in March is related to mobility in older adults.
  - iii. Working at many tasks in the Senior Center including fielding income tax related calls.
  - iv. 40-hour internship allowing participation in BrooklineCAN.
- b. Emily
  - i. Program in March is called "Let's Go" which will be related to individuals involvement in the community and quality of life.
  - ii. Interested in transportation and working with TRIPPS.
- c. Kathy Burnes
  - i. Suggested meeting with JF&CS Parkinsons program lead.

## **2. Community Preservation Act (CPA)**

- a. Educational Campaign
  - i. CPA is a 1% of taxes added to each tax bill.
  - ii. Senior Center and BrooklineCAN should be promote it.
  - iii. Newsletters and later news release.
  - iv. Question as to how automatic tax payments from banks to be handled.
- b. Exemption
  - i. Exemption in law for low to moderate income older adults
  - ii. Must be filed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - iii. Medical expenses are a basis for the exemption but not required if income qualifies for the exemption.
  - iv. Cutoff income figures are about \$71,000 for a single person household (\$70,750) and about \$81,000 for a two person household (\$80,850) per Susan Granoff.

## **3. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)**

- a. Update on state funding
  - i. No timeline issued by the Town to expend funds (years).
  - ii. Transportation needs are a 3-4 year time period and current funds run out March, 2022.

- iii. Need advocacy to get transportation spending from ARPA on a faster track.
- iv. Yolanda Rodriguez indicated Select Board was considering turning Rte 66 bus into a no-fare ride using ARPA funds.
- v. Question: What comes from ARPA and what doesn't?
- b. BCF info
  - i. BCF did not issue report at the deadline they set.
  - ii. Need to keep ears and eyes on the report when issued.
  - iii. No timeline issued to attendees re report.
- c. Deborah Brown's proposal
  - i. Clarified her ARPA proposal at the LCAC meeting
  - ii. Looking for a group to partner with to administer a proposal.
  - iii. Neither BrooklineCAN nor CoA has capacity to administer it.
  - iv. Proposed as grants rather than long term loans.
  - v. David Trevvett – Pointed out it was a proposal for a proposal so need was for a group to make and administer a proposal.
  - vi. Ruth Seidman – Need to tell Deborah that we do not have the resources to administer the proposal but would be glad to act as a “sounding board”.
- d. Next steps
  - i. Must pay attention to process and events.

#### **4. BrooklineCAN Age-Friendly Business (AFB) Program**

- a. Discussion regarding future of the program
  - i. Matt Weiss – take the lead with the BU program that is down the road.
  - ii. Carol Seibert – Will work with the AFB groups.
  - iii. Eleanor Parker – Agreed to continue to find AFB businesses to promote.
  - iv. Kayla of CoA is recruiting for and working with AFB program.
  - v. Suggested and agreed that the AFB application form should include accessible bathrooms.
- b. Collaboration on follow up with Town's brochure addressing accessibility
  - i. Link provided in email.
  - ii. All please follow up.
- c. Grant from JF&CS
  - i. Funding Miriam Diamond and Rosaline Lowe to work on cleanup of the AFB data and contact the businesses.
  - ii. Team should add accessible bathrooms to AFB application.
- d. Please review the Age-Friendly Business material found on our website

- i. Information on the on the program on our web site link below:
- ii. [https://www.brooklinecan.org/age\\_friendly\\_business.html](https://www.brooklinecan.org/age_friendly_business.html)

## **5. COVID pandemic Continues**

- a. Ruthann – Surge impacting all Town departments.
- b. Senior Center stopped all programming for 2 weeks, but hoping to resume starting week of 2/7.
- c. Senior Center worked with the Town distributing 900 test kits.
- d. Town providing vaccines and testing/test kits at BHS next 2 Sundays (PCR tests).
- e. Vaccines will be required for in house seating at restaurants and Town public buildings, but rules and facilities rules changing.

## **6. Candidates Afternoon**

- a. Town election is 5/3/2022 with 3 positions on the School Committee and 1 Select Board position up for election.
- b. Need a moderator and workers for the event.
- c. Matt was timekeeper, Michael was moderator, and Frank, Susan and others sent letters and followed up.
- d. Ruthann will ask Carol Caro to take the lead.
- e. Susan and Matt will work on the committee.

## **7. Goals & Accomplishments – Age-Friendly (see draft report attached)**

- a. David – Document should be in the 1<sup>st</sup> person.
- b. Kathy – BrooklineCAN is the age-friendly engine for Brookline.
- c. BrooklineCAN should not look like it is taking credit for others, but rather reporting on and encouraging activities of others.
- d. Yolanda - Should be a consistent voice in the document speaking for age-friendly Brookline.
- e. Matt – BrooklineCAN is not the “project leaders” for these activities, rather the catalyst/engine.

## **8. Treasurers report (John Seay)**

- a. Normal expenses.
- b. Good collections.

## **9. Committee reports**

- a. Membership
  - i. No report.
- b. Communications – Ruth Seidman
  - i. Newsletter – Working on February newsletter.
  - ii. News Releases – No report.
  - iii. Website – No major changes.

- iv. AFC-TV – Episode 35 guest is Ben Kaufman, Town Clerk, re Town reprecincting and redistricting and May elections. (On BIG and the BrooklineCAN website).
- c. Livable Communities – Discussion of November Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Susan reported.
  - i. Town meeting passed a language access bylaw.
  - ii. Town is hiring a language access coordinator.
  - iii. Tracking of number of residents interacting with Town departments who do not speak English.
  - iv. 30% of Town residents are foreign born and 9 % of Brookline residents have limited English proficiency.
- d. Education
  - i. Potential future program: Models of Homecare – Kendall, Lifecare Advocates, etc.
  - ii. Reininvite Harry Margolis – “Getting Your Ducks in Order” – New book written by Harry since COVID-19 and may be included in program.
  - iii. “All the Lonely People” update – Ruthann reported community benefit from the program is \$20-55K.
  - iv. Discussion took place on the need for Zoom/Hybrid programs rather than waiting for a full in person session.

**10. Old & new business**

- a. None.

**11. Next meeting: February 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM via Zoom**