

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

Notes

October 21, 2015

Attendance: Peter Ames, Lisa Berger, Carol Caro, Frank Caro, Lance Chapman, Ruthann Dobek, Karen Fischer, Marsha Frankel, Susan Krinsky, Michelle LaPointe, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss, Roberta Winitzer.

Introductions. New and continuing members of the Steering Committee introduced themselves. Lance was attending his first meeting, and Marsha is returning to the Steering Committee.

Update on the STRAITS project. Funding has been received, and Kerri Hamberg started this week as director.

Proposal to hire a part-time membership assistant. After reviewing a report from Sonia Wong indicating the multiple tasks she is now performing for BrooklineCAN, Frank, Ruthann, and Molly recommended to the Steering Committee approval to hire a Membership Assistant, who would work four hours per week at the Senior Center on Fridays. A draft position description was presented, and the Steering Committee moved, seconded, and approved the position as outlined.

Volunteer opportunities website. Alberta Lipson and others have developed a website designed to help interested individuals, including seniors, find volunteer opportunities. John recommends that either we do nothing or we help them set up a domain name on GoDaddy and provide a link on our website. Before deciding whether to move forward, members of the Steering committee are asked to visit and work with the site – <http://taylorklickstein.com/brooklineCAN/> , user 'superChief', password 'fooBar', select the 'Volunteer Opportunities' links. We will continue our consideration of the volunteer opportunity website at our next meeting.

Publicizing BrooklineCAN events. Committees that sponsor events or activities that deserve publicity would benefit from following a short checklist of steps to take to get noticed. “If you want notoriety, here is how to get it. . . “ Frank asked Molly to draft such a checklist.

Treasurer’s report. As usual for this time of year, we are running a deficit. We have just paid for our most expensive project, the Annual Meeting (\$4,230), and revenues have not yet caught up. So far this fiscal year (begins 7/1), membership donations total \$3,370, and expenses, \$5,618.50, for a net of \$ (2,248.50). The current balance on hand equals \$18,503.

Education. The first program of the year – Mind/Body Connections in Successful Aging – was held October 19 with about 55 people attending. The Membership Committee handled registration, and 46 people signed in, 17 active members, three former, and 26 potential members. Susan agreed to make some calls to follow-up with attendees. The Education Committee meets October 26 to plan future events.

Communications. Problems are showing up in newsletter distribution to Comcast email addresses. John and Aaron Seidman have discovered where the problems arise, but they cannot solve them as yet. Newsletters will include a monthly feature on transportation.

Professional Service Providers Group (PSPG). The group meets October 22.

Repairs and referrals. A new volunteer has been recruited.

Membership. Today, we have 397 active members, and we hit the goal of 400 last week. Now, “on to 500” is the Committee’s new goal. At the meeting last week, Shirley Selhub and Kerri Hamberg spoke about STRAITS, and at the November 2nd meeting, Carol Caro will talk about our expanded guide to residential buildings with elevators. Future presentations will include demographics and the pedestrian safety project for residents of senior public housing. A January mailing to members whose renewal dates passed in October 2015 and earlier is planned, and names for that mailing will be circulated to the Steering Committee in December in hopes of identifying people for personal letters and/or notes.

Livable Community Advocacy Committee. Members of the Committee have been monitoring street lighting in the north Brookline pedestrian district and made 50 reports of inadequate lighting, most of them where lights are located adjacent to mature trees that block light and often cause sidewalk heaving (a double edged safety problem – low light and black sidewalk patches). The reports have gone to town engineer Peter Ditto and arborist Tom Brady. An article in the November newsletter will seek additional volunteers. A suggestion of street benches in the stretches between commercial areas on Beacon Street seems to be in implementation.

The next meeting, October 29, features Cheryl Snyder of the health department discussing emergency supports for vulnerable and isolated seniors. Fiercely independent seniors who live alone can be a challenge. The meeting, at 10 a.m. in the Public Health Building is open to everyone. Carol suggested including the Norfolk County Sheriff’s telephone reassurance program “RUOK.”

A follow-up session with the Department of Public Works on pedestrian safety is planned for Monday, November 2 at 3 PM at Town Hall. Joan McCabe and Susan Granoff are continuing the organizing work begun by Janet Selcer with support of ReServe. One reason for the impact of the first meeting was the number of people in the room. Frank encouraged attendance at 3 PM in Room 111.

Age Friendly City Initiative. The next program on BIG TV features an interview with Shirley Selhub on STRAITS. The shows are broadcast Thursdays at 7 pm. A program on the Health Department is next.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18, at 3:00 PM.

Notes prepared by Molly Turlish