

# BrooklineCAN Steering Committee

## Notes

April 15, 2015

**Attendance:** Kathy Burnes, Carol Caro, Frank Caro, Ruthann Dobek, Michelle LaPointe, Elenore Parker, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Molly Turlish, Matt Weiss, and Karen Zweig.

**Nominating Committee.** Frank named Ruthann, Karen, Michelle, and Molly to the nominating committee. The committee will nominate a candidate for Treasurer and candidates for the Steering Committee to fill positions that expire this year.

**MA DoT Grant for STRAITS center.** BrooklineCAN and the Senior Center received 72% of the request to the Department of Transportation to establish the center (in collaboration with Newton). We are receiving first-year funding and have proposed a three-year project. Thus the project begins with a significant deficit. Planning for how to cover that deficit has not yet begun. The expected start date is August.

**Annual Meeting.** Former Governor Michael Dukakis has agreed to attend and to accept our award.

**Membership.** Today, we have 334 active/paid members, approximately the same as in February and up 14 since March. Members of the committee continue calling former members to encourage them to renew, and the recently instituted emails to active members whose renewal date falls in the following month seem to be effective in retaining members. Copies of the new membership brochures were distributed.

The first ever membership event, featuring a speaker from The Conversation Project (TCP), will be Tuesday, May 19, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Senior Center. We are promoting it with flyers, notices to churches and synagogues, newsletter items, and press releases and hope to have 50 attendees.

**Communications.** The May newsletter is in process. The website is featuring the May 5 Town elections, including the election forum April 30.

**Education.** Forty-four people (of 60+ in attendance) signed in at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> program, "Embracing Sexuality as We Age: Keys to Vitality." Molly expressed disappointment that there was no information about BrooklineCAN and no membership invitation extended from the podium; Kathy Burnes will follow up with an email to non-members who gave email addresses.

The March 26 showing of the Glen Campbell film "I'll Be Me" sold out. Upcoming events include the health fair May 14<sup>th</sup> (lunch spaces are nearly all reserved) and a June 18 program featuring a speaker from the MIT age lab.

**Professional Service Providers Group.** Josh Obeiter of Seniors Helping Seniors in Newton spoke March 26. The group decided to invite him to become an "ancillary member," and he accepted. The process and standards for extending such status need to be defined.

**Election forum.** The Livable Communities Advocacy Committee is sponsoring an election forum on Thursday, April 30, 4-6 at the Senior Center. Candidates for Selectman and School Committee and spokespeople for and against passage of the overrides will speak. Frank asked Steering Committee members to assist with publicizing the event and inviting people to attend. He passed around the flyers designed by Henry Winkelman.

**Livable Community Advocacy Committee.** Sarah Slymon (Brookline Public Library) program on “Libraries of the Future” has been rescheduled for April 27 at 4 pm.

**The Age Friendly Cities initiative.** The BIG TV program previously announced will debut either April 30 or the first week of May.

**Budget for FY2016.** The Finance Committee is working on the budget for July-June. It will include \$500 for each committee for program enhancement and will total about \$15,000. One special project anticipated is the printing of our residential guides, once they are expanded and updated. The budget will be presented to the Steering Committee at its May meeting.

**Finance.** Expenses total \$6,736 and income, \$13,275. Funds on hand total \$22,934.82. Estimated FY 2015 expenses come to \$13,744. In-Kind support provided by the Senior Center includes office and meeting space, copy machine, computer, printer, telephone, and office supplies. Other founding partners donate food and printing expenses.

**Volunteer recognition.** Frank asked whether we should be planning an opportunity for BrooklineCAN volunteers to gather for food and fellowship. The idea was received positively.

**Organizing seniors living in public housing.** Janet Selcer has held gatherings at three senior residences, with the fourth planned for next week. Seniors are discussing the pedestrian environment and some volunteers have come forward.

**Residential Guides.** Mary Dexter is updating and expanding the guides to include buildings with as few as eight units, and the work is going well. Publishing the guides has been suggested for next year.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 20 at 3:00 PM.

Notes prepared by Molly Turkish