

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes April 17, 2024

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Sonia Wong. Staff: None

- 1. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN goals and priorities 2024**
 - a. **Statement of previous meeting "Based on a "sense of the room" at LCAC as to whether BrooklineCAN should support a position. If the sense of the room is yes, the Steering Committee will immediately be presented with a statement of the position and will immediately thereafter vote via email."**
 - i. We agreed to see how this goes and review the approach after the next Town Meeting.
 - ii. What Susan should say to candidates and petitioners when she invites them to LCAC meetings: **"LCAC is the arm of BrooklineCAN that engages with Town representatives, candidates, petitioners and others on Town matters, fosters dialogue between them and BrooklineCAN members, and as appropriate makes recommendations to Brookline leadership that the organization support particular positions, for instance on warrant articles relevant to seniors."**
 - b. Discussion on obtaining feedback from BrooklineCAN members on priorities and ways to meet these needs will be the focus of our May meeting.
 - i. Note – Diane Abrams asked to participate but no follow up.
- 2. Review of April 9th, 2024 6:30PM Feet First Group**
 - a. Suggestions for BrooklineCAN programs:
 - i. Home modifications including stair lifts and home elevator installation
 - ii. Program on different types of housing options, including some consumer tips on reading contracts and financial issues
 - iii. Feedback on BrooklineCAN's vetting services.
 - b. Feedback n BrooklineCAN's vetting services.
- 3. Candidates Forum 2024 – Wednesday, April 17th at 4:00 PM**
 - a. Last minute review of Forum
 - i. Ready to go.
- 4. Brookline Election night video (John)**
 - a. Matt not ready so cancelled.

5. BrooklineCAN Nominating Committee

- a. Seeking committee members.
 - i. Janet, John, Ruth and Ruthann.
- b. Formal review process for May and June meetings.
- c. Member & Terms list:
https://www.brooklinecan.org/about_us.us.html#steering
- d. John (Treasurer), Matt (Clerk), Elenore (Vice Chair), and Ruth (President) expire in 2024
 - i. Carol Seibert has resigned due to her move.

6. Town Meeting May 28, 2024

- a. Update on Warrant Articles
- b. Warrant Article 12
 - i. Submitted by: Director of Finance and Council on Aging
 Director – The Town’s successful Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program currently allows 35 residents over the age of 60 years to reduce their real estate taxes by a maximum of \$1,875 annually, provided they meet certain income requirements. This article would adopt new state legislation approved last autumn allowing the maximum tax reduction for program participants to be \$2,000 annually. The Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program provides needed tax relief to seniors living on fixed incomes, while also providing the Town with skilled workers for specific tasks.
- c. Warrant Article on accessory dwelling units.

7. Update on Brookline’s AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

- a. Resource: Age-Friendly Guidebook Report (see attached)

8. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Only expense item was the newsletter per report.

9. Committee reports

- a. Membership
 - i. Consider a brainstorming session using Kathy Byrnes material and our recent thoughts.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – Town election, LWV Guide, Friends of Halls Pond Spring Cleanup, programs at Senior Center (including trip to MFA).
 - ii. News Releases – None.
 - iii. Website – None.
 - iv. AFC-TV – None.

- v. Social Media – None.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
 - i. Meeting postponed to April 29th.
 - ii. Sana Hafeez
 - iii. Roger Blood
- d. Education
 - i. None.

10. Old and New Business

11. Next Steering Committee Meeting: May 15th at 3PM via Zoom

12. BrooklineCAN Membership as of 4/12/2024: 187

13. Save the date:

- a. Brookline Day – Sunday September 8th, 2024

[age friendly guide book report.pdf](#)