

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes August 19, 2026

Attendees: Diane Abrams, Marilyn Benson, Susan Cohen, Susan Granoff, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, Matthew Weiss, Emily Williams, Sonia Wong. Absent: David Trevvett

1. Treasurer's Report

- a. John presented changes in the report.
 - i. Management of our money is taken over by the Senior Center Foundation using QuickBooks and are accustomed to a fixed set of chart of accounts.
 - ii. Combined newsletters with the much smaller outreach.
 - iii. Workable change that makes sense.
- b. Expenses.
 - i. Membership assistant & miscellaneous supplies.
- c. Income.
 - i. More than accounted for – probably due to delay in entries.

2. Projects

- a. UMass Boston Needs Assessment Update
 - i. Researcher Deliverables: Full Report, Executive Summary, Powerpoint presentation (Caitlin Boyle and Kathy Burns).
 - ii. Outreach: September 1 Select Board presentation, full availability to the public after September 1st, presentation on October 15th at BrooklineCAN Fall Forum and Brookline.News Article per Sam Mintz. Sending to committee executive summary, one-pager, and a strategic planning document. Emily attend LCAC for questions.
 - iii. Liaisons: Ruth is the liaison to BrooklineCAN, Yolanda and Emily, Julia Herskowitz, and perhaps Susan Granoff to Advisory Committee.
 - iv. Emily on AFC-TV to introduce the Needs Assessment.
 - v. For new members – Umass Boston Center for Research on Aging, through the Gerontology Institute and funded by Senator Creme. 10-page questionnaire to 5,000 residents through direct mail and postcard with a follow-up survey, so 5,000 surveys were mailed to residents age 60+ using the town census with 2,200 survey respondents. Researchers scrubbed the data and put together a comprehensive plan of what it's like to age in Brookline.
 - vi. Town commissioned survey so applies to all Town departments not just CoA.

- vii. Top 3 – Hope to address housing and financial security, transportation and accessibility, and social wellness and inclusion.
- viii. **Note – 1 in 4 residents will be 60+ in 10 years.**
- b. Brookline Day, Sunday, September 27th 11am to 3pm
 - i. Call for volunteers from committee for BrooklineCAN table.
 - ii. Susan Granoff, Susan Cohen, Matt Weiss, John Seay, Carol Caro, Ruth Seidman, possibly David & Melissa Trevvett.
 - iii. Newsletter – Ruth asked people to stop by and/or volunteer.
 - iv. Julie signed up for 2 booths CoA and BrooklineCAN.
- c. Fall Forum, October 15th 4pm to 6pm.
 - i. Waiting to hear from State Senator Pat Jalen as Co-Chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs and Senator Crème.
 - ii. Researchers Kathy Burns, Caitlin Coyle, and Nancy Mazonson will be there to present the data.
 - iii. Food will again be from Wegman's (4-6pm with last half-hour to be food and socializing).
- d. COA and Senior Center Party of a Century Centenarian Celebration October 19th.
 - i. BrooklineCAN is a co-sponsor and logo will be on invitation.
 - ii. Participating in the Boston Post Cane for the oldest.
 - iii. Emily present the Cane with Chaz Carey and Tommy Vitolo.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Marilyn Benson)
 - i. Consider events similar to Emily's coffees for BrooklineCAN.
 - ii. Steering Committee members answer questions.
 - iii. Nobody volunteered to run it so delay at least 2 months.
 - iv. Agreed that it is a good idea.
 - v. Need to accommodate working members time availability.
 - vi. Great idea: Desk at Senior Center for BrooklineCAN.
 - vii. Discussion followed re desk concept.
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter – (Ruth Seidman) – Articles: Brookline Day, Fall Forum, Porchfest and a recurring article re legislative issues
 - ii. News releases and Outreach – New limitations for MassHealth recipients age 60 to 64 working but receiving MassHealth: Instead of having annual check-ins, they will have more frequent check-ins by the government.
 - iii. Website and social media – (John Seay & Matt Weiss) – Website is behind on events update due to technical issues, but will now bring it up to date.

- iv. AFC-TV – (John Seay) – Next show is Episode 62 with Tommy Vitolo re Protect Act, but no date for taping yet.
- c. LCAC & Notetaker – (Susan Granoff)
 - i. Next meeting is September 14th.
 - ii. September or October possible discussion about elderly pedestrian safety.
 - iii. Couple of years ago we had Brian Kane and one other person speak about Vision Zero and we could have an update on the Vision Zero Warrant Article.
 - iv. Possible session on transportation going forward.
 - v. Note – Transportation is the “lynchpin for everything”.
 - vi. Still needs someone to work with Susan.
- d. Education
 - i. No report.

4. Review of 2026 Priorities

- a. Based on the results of the comprehensive needs assessment to be conducted in the first part of the year in partnership with researchers from the UMass Boston Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, advocate for increased support for Brookline's older adult population.
- b. Bring in new members and encourage greater participation by current members. Re-activate the Membership Committee, possibly re-envisioning it as Membership/Education/Programming, and consider some type of membership drive.
- c. Present the Candidate Forum in April prior to the May Town elections with the possibility of also addressing issues such as the override.
 - i. Successful and will continue for next few years.
- d. Consider alternative approaches for the Annual Meeting.
- e. Continue revitalization of the Age Friendly Business project.
 - i. Carol Caro has enlisted a number of people to work on this and has added many new businesses.
 - ii. Team requested a list of the people involved in the project.
 - iii. Add Age Friendly Business project to agenda going forward.
- f. Explore opportunities for partners and sponsors.
 - i. Activities with Neighbors Connect.

5. Create New Priorities for Future Year

- a. Bring new ideas or things we can do better to the next meeting.

6. Old and New Business

7. Next Steering Committee meeting: September 14th, 2026 at 3 PM