

BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes August 20, 2025

Attendees: Marilyn Benson, Carol Caro, Susan Granoff, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Emily Williams, Sonia Wong. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

1. Annual Meeting Thursday, September 18, 2025 5 to 7pm

[Planning Grid .xlsx](#)

- a. Review planning grid and outstanding needs:
 - i. Registrations are available on save the date and websites.
 - ii. Food ordered by Marilyn from Wegman's (approx. \$800).
 - iii. Liquor and license by Jessica.
 - iv. Flyer was produced.
 - v. Program book to Committee to approve and then the printer.
 - vi. Speakers have been confirmed (Ruthann & Kathy Burnes)
 - vii. Tim Davis (Emily) and Sonia (Ruth) – Frank Caro Awards.
 - viii. HSL is working on selecting their representative – Exhibitor.
 - ix. Goddard House is confirmed – Exhibitor.
 - x. ***JF&CS – Reaching out to CEO as last resort.
 - xi. Newsletters – Senior Center & BrooklineCAN (Carol)
 - xii. Awards & Gifts (Orchids) near complete – Julie/Emily
 - xiii. Jazz Band – John contacted and in progress.
- b. Volunteers
 - i. Greeters/Floaters – TBD
 - ii. Welcome/Membership – TBD
 - iii. LCAC – SusanG/SusanC
 - iv. Communications – Carol
 - v. Education – Emily/Julie
 - vi. Membership Pitch Slides – John
 - vii. Emcee – Matt
 - viii. BrooklineCAN Welcome – John
 - ix. Introduce Speakers – Matt
 - x. Present Awards – Emily/Ruth
- c. "2010-2025 Key Accomplishments"
 - i. Committee reports will be included with pictures.
- d. Signups – separate lists for each signup
 - i. Need to solve legibility of email addresses

2. Plan for Brookline Day table Sunday, Sept. 14th from 11AM to 3PM

- a. Staff the table (Same location/group with Senior Center)
 - i. Possibles – Susan Granoff, Ruth, David, Melissa, Matt, John, Carol,
- b. Material

- i. Signup sheets, brochures, newsletters, et. al.
- ii. Posterboard – Consider new one.
- iii.

3. Outreach

- a. Review of Farmer's Market on July 24
 - i. Definitely worth the effort.
 - ii. Carol, Melissa, David, Sonia, Ruth, Emily.
 - iii. Will again be on the agenda for next year.
- b. Rep. Vitolo new mailing

4. Treasurers report (John Seay)

- a. Expenses – No new expenses last month.
- b. Memberships
 - i. \$780 in new and renewals.
 - ii. 174 members.
- c. \$21K balance
- d. Carol – Reorder 200 brochures for Library, Annual Meeting & Brookline Day.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Membership
 - i. BrooklineCAN Membership as of 8/18/25: 174
- b. Communications
 - i. Newsletter
 - ii. News releases
 - iii. Website
 - iv. AFC-TV
 - v. Social media
- c. Livable Community Advocacy Committee

6. BrooklineCAN Education Committee update

- a. Intention – Reinvolvement BrooklineCAN in the education program.
- b. Theme – Advocacy and civic engagement
 - i. Advocacy 101 – Resources such as: AARP, Senior Action Counsel.
 - ii. Town vs. City
 - iii. Consider Ruth Nemzoff
 - iv. Consider use of AFC-TV 54 episodes re Town
- c. Newbury Property – potential 2nd location for Senior Center.
 - i. Foundation wants BrooklineCAN resolution to Town Meeting to recognize needs of older adults for a 2nd Senior Center site for gathering and activities. (Advocacy role)
 - ii. If Newbury property is used for recreational activities then share for older adults/Senior Center should be provided.

- iii. Need 10 signatures by September 4th – then can make changes of some type (not to scope) to the WA.
- iv. Consider advice from Kim Smith on the Foundation
- v. Note existence of Fisher Hill West Uses Advisory Committee (Design of property).
- vi. Purpose – Include Senior Center needs as part of redesign.
- vii. Consider past similar WAs as models.
- viii. Stress shortcomings of Senior Center.
- ix. Review past minutes of Fisher Hill West Uses Committee.
- x. Also need to contact Fisher Hill West Uses Committee.
- xi. Also consider a request for a satellite Senior Center.
- xii. **Key steps now is to meet the 9/4 WA deadline.**
- xiii. Consider assistance from Emily, Susan, David and Yolanda in preparing/editing the resolution.
- xiv. **Voted to proceed with a resolution re Fisher Hill uses in support of the Senior Center and older adults services.**
- xv. There were two abstentions. (8-0-2)

7. Old and New Business

- a. New Transportation Coordinator – Sebastian Ware
- b. John – presented a web page of past website home pages and requested that people think of its use at the Annual Meeting.
- c. David – Recommended “A Walkable Brookline” at the Coolidge Corner Theater presented by Jeff Speck on 9/10.

8. Review of 2025 Priorities

- a. Participate in COA Director transition and work with new director
- b. Support more funding for COA as senior population grows and needs increase
- c. Candidates Forum
- d. Annual Meeting September 2025
- e. Participate in offering educational events
- f. Continue efforts to engage and build membership; clarify role of the organization and communicate it
- g. Seek ways to revitalize Age-Friendly Business Program
- h. Begin planning for the coming year

9. Next Steering Committee meeting: September 17, 2025 at 3 PM

BrooklineCAN Membership as of July meeting