

## **1. BrooklineCAN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes May 15, 2024**

Attendees: Ruthann Dobek, Janet Gelbart, Susan Granoff, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, Ruth Seidman, David Trevvett, Matthew Weiss, Sonia Wong. Guest: Carol Caro. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee

### **1. Ongoing discussion of BrooklineCAN goals and priorities 2024**

- a. Follow up discussion on the recommendation of Livable Community Advocacy Committee (LCAC). Following a discussion of Warrant Article #12, Expansion of the Senior Tax Work-Off Program, at the April 29, 2024 meeting of BrooklineCAN's LCAC, the BrooklineCAN Steering Committee has unanimously voted to support this warrant article and to urge that Town Meeting take Favorable Action on it. This program benefits seniors who need some relief from increasing property taxes and the Town benefits from their work.
  - i. This approach has been successful so far: (LCAC met, sense-of-the-room was Yes, and email followed to the Steering Committee, in less than 24 hours the Steering Committee members responded with a unanimous approval of support of Warrant Article #12)
  - ii. Susan indicated the process worked well.
  - iii. Consider 75% Steering Committee approval to pass.
- b. Increasing BrooklineCAN membership for June meeting.

### **2. Review of BrooklineCAN's response to Warrant Article #12.**

- a. See Item 1.a.i.

### **3. BrooklineCAN Nominating Committee**

- a. Report from Nominating Committee (John)
  - i. Ruth Seidman – Co-Chair (Continuing)
  - ii. Matt Weiss – Clerk (Continuing)
  - iii. John Seay – Treasurer (Continuing)
  - iv. Susan Granoff – At-Large
  - v. Open (1) – At-Large to replace Carol Seibert, term expires 6/30/2025
  - vi. Open (1) – At-Large former Vice-Chair, term expires 6/30/2026
  - vii. Open (2) – At-Large new, term expires 6/30/2026
- b. Motion to accept the report of the Nominating Committee passed unanimously.
- c. Recommended changes to Governance Guidelines
  - i. Remove vice-chair position

- ii. Change “add committee chairs” to “add committee chairs or designee
- iii. Change “The Steering Committee may also appoint up to five at-large members” to “The Steering Committee may also appoint up to eight at-large members”
- d. Susan will contact Brenda Hefter about becoming a member and possibly a Steering Committee member.
  - i. Note preferable if person has knowledge of and experience in BrooklineCAN.
  - ii. Suggestion – Have an open “forum” for ideas as to BrooklineCAN activities, goals.
  - iii. Discuss possibility at June meeting – Perhaps use Annual Meeting as a basis for the “forum”.
- e. Engagement – Coffee meetings with individuals would be a good approach to involve members.

#### **4. Review of Candidates’ Forum 2024 – Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

- a. Comments and suggestions
  - i. Michael did a wonderful job as moderator.
  - ii. Matt performed well as timekeeper.
  - iii. Needed to publish in advance the format re questions.
  - iv. Good turnout and working with the LWV went smoothly.
  - v. Need to extend questions time – People like the possibility...
  - vi. Consider starting earlier.
  - vii. Provide a period before or after the Forum for candidates to be available directly to the attendees.
- b. Thank you \$25 gift certificate to Michael from BrooklineCAN.

#### **5. Discussion of ROAR (Recruiting Older Adult Residents for Boards and Commissions) May 22 meeting (see flyer)**

- a. Flyer: [ROAR Meeting 5-22-24 Flyer.docx](#)
- b. Expressed need for older adults to be more active in Town.
  - i. Impact needed re aging issues in Town.
- c. Call to action on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - i. Involvement in specific boards and commissions.
  - ii. Advocacy re specific issues.
- d. Yolanda
  - i. Bernard and Paul Warren indicate need for views.
  - ii. John VanScoyoc has indicated need for our views at times.
  - iii. BrooklineCAN mission includes advocacy.
  - iv. ROAR’s 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is 5/22 to see interest in going further.
  - v. Stressed having older adult members of commissions.
- e. Susan
  - i. Stressed importance of public (aging) comment at hearings.
  - ii. Establish a volunteer senior advocacy corps.

- iii. Examples – Affordable housing, bicycles, et. al.
- iv. Teach advocates mechanisms of influencing Town actions.
- v. Membership in committees and public comment effective.
- vi. Zoom is now just as effective for advocacy.
- vii. Advocacy is the point.
- f. Janet – BrooklineCAN should co-sponsor the ROAR effort.
  - i. Need to teach seniors use of vehicles to impact decisions.
  - ii. How to apply for committee/commission membership.
  - iii. ROAR grew organically and needs structure.
  - iv. BrooklineCAN can provide that structure.
  - v. For example, identify committees and coordinate candidates.
  - vi. Many examples of lack of information re committees' needs.
- g. Matt – Activist group not advocacy for no specific issue.
  - i. Advocacy is the point.
- h. David – Agree with need for advocacy and involvement.
  - i. Document discusses seats on boards and commissions.
  - ii. No mention of advocacy for any specific issue.
  - iii. Key is advocacy not board membership.
  - iv. How does CoA “endorse” candidates for boards?
  - v. Need to select commissions that affect older adults.
  - vi. Need to identify where older adult voices are missing.
  - vii. Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) is senior advocate.
  - viii. Need is for public comment at PAC and other meetings.
  - ix. Advocacy is the point.
- i. Ruthann – ROAR is aimed at all committees.
  - i. Call to action to impact committees impacting older adults.
  - ii. Representatives on committees is one way of impacting.
- j. Bea – Full support of ROAR – also is a way for BrooklineCAN to get new members.

## **6. Town Meeting May 28, 2024**

- a. No discussion.

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

- a. AARP *Designing for People of All Ages* Workshop: Oct. 16-17, 2024. Registration begins in August 2024.
  - i. No discussion.

## **8. Treasurers report (John Seay)**

- a. Minor administration expenses.
- b. Newsletter expenses.
- c. Reminder of low membership and need to expand paying and active membership.

## **9. Committee reports**

- a. Membership

- i. John – Need letters to lapsed membership (60 days).
  - ii. Janet – Lapsed member letter should be sent every 60 days.
  - iii. Change to an email rather than paper.
  - iv. Need to encourage LCAC non-member attendees to join.
  - v. John, Janet and Susan will work lapsed members and LCAC.
- b. Communications
- i. Newsletter – Has gotten much longer due to increased items of information of interest to readership.
  - ii. News Releases – None.
  - iii. Website – None.
  - iv. AFC-TV – Rachid Belhocine (Tax Assessor) and Lincoln Heineman (Director of Finance) are guests on next show.
  - v. Social Media – None.
- c. Livable Communities Advocacy Committee
- i. Need a process for selecting next LCAC Committee Chair (or Co-Chairs) – Need at least two people to lead the LCAC and Janet would be willing to continue as note taker and Co-Chair. Need to name specific members of LCAC committee as opposed to attendees. Key is to name Chair(s). (Note approx. 25 BrooklineCAN members attend LCAC meetings)
  - ii. Working with Erin Chute on a session re Complete Streets.
  - iii. Complete Streets in June at earliest after Town Meeting.
  - iv. Report from Erin Chute should be read prior to LCAC.  
<https://www.brooklinema.gov/3614/Complete-Streets#:~:text=The%20Town%20of%20all%20ages%20and%20abilities%2C>
- d. Education
- i. None.

## 10. Old and New Business

11. **Next Steering Committee Meeting:** Needs to be rescheduled as 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday is June 19 – federal holiday (Juneteenth) – June 26<sup>th</sup> 3PM

12. **BrooklineCAN Membership as of 5/13/2024: 190**  
**BrooklineCAN Membership as of 4/12/2024: 187**

**Save the date:** Brookline Day – Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024