

Minutes of the Age Friendly Community Committee  
September 7, 2016

Present: **Frank Caro, Nancy Daly, Roberta Winitzer, Henry Winkelman, Saralynn Allaire, Anne Reed, Shirley Selhub, and Pamela Zelnick**

The meeting commenced at 10:00 A.M.

Saralynn Allaire took notes for the meeting.

The Minutes for July 12, 2016 were not available and will be approved at a later date.

It was reported that Saralynn Allaire has been appointed Chair of the Brookline Commission for the Disabled. Six new members have been appointed, and three members were re-appointed, so the Commission is fully enrolled.

Shirley Selhub is the new spokesperson for the bi-monthly AFC-TV (BIG) show. Selectman Chair Neil Wishinsky will be interviewed this month on the Age Friendly Cities initiative. Saralynn Allaire will be on in November to discuss disability/senior overlap issues.

The need for the 2014-2015 Biannual Report of the Age Friendly Initiative to get on the Board of Selectmen agenda was noted. The presentation of the report to the Board will help the Selectmen and public be aware of the Age Friendly Committee's many accomplishments.

Further attention and work is needed on locating and placing benches on Beacon St. and around Coolidge Corner. The standard for bench placement on sidewalks that are important for pedestrian transportation is one every quarter of a mile, as set in the Complete Streets policy. There was discussion about whether benches without backs and handrails offered any advantage in space limited locations. Also, the need for careful placement was noted, so as to avoid blocking vehicle passenger side entrance. Selectman Daly pointed out that presenting an already prepared plan for bench placement and type would work best for DPW. Consultation with businesses along the streets was advised, especially as they may be funding sources for the benches.

Regarding housing, the Housing Production Plan is not out yet. There is no update on the limited parking issue at the JCHC (KI) senior housing site. Henry Winkelman has filed a warrant article for the fall Town Meeting. The article is a resolution to encouraging development of an affordable senior housing project located over a Town owned parking lot between Kent and Station Streets. . It had been noted earlier in the meeting that the various proposed 40B projects need to be reviewed for senior and disability access. There was particular concern about an age-restricted project at 1299 Beacon St., which may have a serious impact on walkability in the area due to its impact on traffic.

Anne Reed asked all members to participate in an online survey the library is conducting. A Brookline author day will be held on Dec 4. The renovation of the garden area next to the Putterham branch is nearly complete.

The Age Friendly Community logo has still not been placed on the Town line sign posts. A petition requesting this will be circulated, including at Brookline Day Sep. 18.

The celebration of the opening of the pocket park at John and Green Sts. will be held on Sep. 29 at 1 PM. The benches there were contributed by the children of Richard and Chou Lee.

Town Meeting member Susan Granoff has filed a warrant article which calls for the establishment of a study committee on senior property tax relief.

Newton has recently become an Age Friendly Community. A kickoff celebration for this will be held at the Newton Free Library on September 20. Frank Caro and Nancy Daly are invited speakers. Roberta Winitzer will attend in Nancy's place. Frank will review our accomplishments with emphasis on potential for replication in Newton. Frank and Roberta will also discuss collaboration between our committees.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wed. Oct. 5 at 9:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.