

**Town of Brookline  
Advisory Committee Minutes**

Sean Lynn-Jones, Chair

**Date:** September 15, 2016

**Present:** Carla Benka, Clifford M. Brown, Carol Caro, Lea Cohen, Dennis Doughty, Harry Friedman, Janet Gelbart, David-Marc Goldstein, Neil Gordon, Kelly A. Hardebeck, Sytske Humphrey, Angela Hyatt, Alisa G. Jonas, Janice S. Kahn, Steve Kanes, Bobbie Knable, David Lescohier, Fred Levitan, Robert Liao, Pamela Lodish, Sean Lynn-Jones, Shaari S. Mittel, Mariah Nobrega, Lee L. Selwyn, Stanley L. Spiegel, Charles Swartz, Christine Westphal

**Absent:** Amy Hummell, Michael Sandman, John Doggett

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Capital Subcommittee chair Carla Benka gave an update on the status of the buffered Beacon Street bike lane. Since the last Advisory Committee meeting, the situation has changed, State DOT has approved plans, and the construction is moving forward.

**1. Review WA 12 Authorize a 10-year Land Lease of Light Poles and Land at the Municipal Service Center for the continuation of the Town’s Distributed Antenna System (DAS). (Selectmen)**

Pam Lodish gave an overview of the Capital subcommittee’s review of WA 12. The article asks the Advisory Committee to authorize the Selectmen to renew or extend a 10 year lease with ExteNet. ExteNet is a “neutral” provider of space on poles for various mobile providers – Verizon, ATT, T-Mobile and Sprint. The applicant proposes to install 13 new DAS nodes, including 7 replacement poles, 5 new utility poles and an exchange of equipment on 1 existing pole. New conduits, fiber optic cables and equipment will be placed on each pole. New wiring will also be on the inside of the poles. The Distributed Antenna System provides improved cell coverage and is in lieu of a large, unsightly tower.

Q: Who is deciding where the new 5 poles will be placed?

A: Still being considered but the goal is to make coverage better. This is part of the Selectmen’s determination.

We are leasing the right to use Town poles. We get revenue – currently \$32,000 but it will go up to \$50,000. If they are replacing poles, there are certain requirements set out by the Town that they must adhere to.

The subcommittee voted unanimously to support Article 12 but will make the suggestion to Selectmen to review the contract/agreement before final decisions are made.

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to recommend favorable action on Article 12.

By a **VOTE** of 21 in favor, 0 opposed with 1 abstention the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on Article 12.

## 2. Review WA 20 Authorize Selectmen to contract with an operator for the Hubway Regional Bicycle Share Program. (Planning & Community Development)

Carla Benka, chair of the Capital Subcommittee gave background on the Hubway Bicycle Share Program. The article is asking that the Town hand over the program to a private entity to run it. The Town doesn't have the money or staff capacity at the moment to operate the system.. This article asks us to authorize the Selectman to enter into a 10 year agreement with a private operator.

Joe Viola represented the petitioner, the Department of Planning and Community Development. He explained that a RFP has been issued. We hope to move to a revenue sharing model to allow the program to grow in Brookline. The infusion of sponsorship dollars would pay for expansion and operation for all municipalities.

### Questions and Comments

Q: Do we have any stats on usage here in Brookline?

A: Yes we do. Most trips are inward bound in the morning, outward in the afternoon. Ridership has been increasing but would be more robust if we had more stations. Procure an operator, it would run the program on behalf of the 4 municipalities (Brookline, Boston, Cambridge, Somerville).

Q: Is it up to the municipalities to raise funding?

A: In the current system, there has been no municipal funding – funded with grants but not on the Town dime. This essentially takes the obligation away from the Town and leaves it to the operator.

The operator would work with municipalities to do a build-out in terms of locations and permits, but would purchase bicycles and materials. We retain control over where they put the locations. Transportation Board has final word.

If the Town hands over the day-to-day operation to a private company, we will end up having bikes with ads and ads at the bike kiosks. Knowing how sensitive some people are to signage and images, we hope this is something that will be negotiated with the vendor. Ad panels on kiosks are up to the municipalities.

Q: Are we obligated to open a fixed number or is the number open?

A: A fixed number which is based on an analysis we did to look at where current stations are but it is negotiable and incremental.

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to recommend favorable action on WA 20.

By a **VOTE** of 21 in favor, 0 opposed with 1 abstention, the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on WA 20.

**3. Review WA 27 To Name a square at utility pole 44/16A, near the northeast corner of Cypress and Boylston Streets, as “Walter F. Brookings Square”. (Naming Committee)**

Human Services subcommittee member David-Marc Goldstein gave background on Walter F. Brookings and the effort to name a square for him. Bill McGroarty received a letter from Donna Wolfe, granddaughter of Walter F Brookings. She found her grandfather’s name on the Town’s War Memorial and inquired about the possibility of naming a square for her grandfather. Mr. McGroarty has a photo of the pole and knows where it is going to be.

Walter F. Brookings grew up in Brookline at 126 Cypress Street (currently the site of the Mobile gas station). He was married and had a baby son. Mr. Brookings enlisted in the Air Force and began active duty on May 18, 1942. He was second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Forces 545 Bomber Squadron, 384th Bomber Group. He died in service over France on March 19, 1944 at the age of 24. He co-piloted a B-17 Bomber, named Lovell’s Hovel, when his plane was shot down by flak and crashed. The pilots were able to keep the plane aloft long enough to enable 4 soldiers to exit the plane; both pilots died in the crash. Lieutenant Brookings left behind his wife and two year old son. He was a hero and was awarded the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters and a Purple Heart. The final mission of LT Brookings took place 3 months before D-Day.

The subcommittee recommended the changing of the location of the sign from northeast corner of Cypress and Boylston Street to the northwest corner of Cypress and Brington Road. They deemed it less busy and still within the purview of the article.

Comment: Nobody had done much research when this was brought to the Naming Committee. Did anyone go to the sites listed and write down all the information about Walter F. Brookings? This feels incomplete. Suggest that someone gather information about him so he can be properly memorialized before the ceremony in May.

Research was done by members of the subcommittee but this recommendation will be made to Veteran’s Affairs.

Do we need to consider at some point some sort of criteria for naming? How many squares do we have?

A **MOTION** was made and seconded that the Town approve the naming of a square at the intersection of Cypress Street and Brington Road with a plaque at the northwest corner of Cypress Street and Brington Road as Walter F. Brookings Square.

By a unanimous **VOTE** the Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on the following **MOTION**

**VOTED:** That the Town approves the naming of a square at the intersection of Cypress Street and Brington Road with a plaque at the northwest corner of Cypress Street and Brington Road as Walter F. Brookings Square.

Upon a **MOTION** made and seconded to adjourn, and voted unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

**Documents Presented:**

- Capital subcommittee reports on WA 12 and 20
- Human Services subcommittee report on WA 27
- Draft Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule