

Minutes of the Age Friendly Cities Committee (AFCC)

February 14, 2023

Present: Carol Caro, Joshua Cooke, Ruthann Dobek, Lynne Karsten, James Lee, Yolanda Rodriguez, John Seay, John VanScoyoc, Matt Weiss. Absent: Sarah Kaplan. Staff: Jessica Milley-Gee.

1. Review of minutes of January 10th, 2023 meeting
 - a. Minutes approved 9-0-0. (Quorum present)
2. Designate note taker
 - a. Matt Weiss.
3. Age-Friendly AARP application process
 - a. Review of final "Age-Friendly Goals and Accomplishments" document
 - i. Document was reviewed and discussed.
 - b. Application process
 - i. AFCC will request Select Board to endorse the request for AARP recognition of Brookline as an age-friendly community
 - ii. Noted: Overlap between BrooklineCAN, CoA and AFCC.
 - iii. Motion to recommend the Select Board submit the application to the AARP for AARP Age-Friendly Community designation was taken and the committee voted 9-0-0 in favor.
 - iv. Those in favor: John VanScoyoc, John Seay, Yolanda Rodriguez, Carol Caro, James Lee, Joshua Cooke, Lynne Karsten, Matthew Weiss, Ruthann Dobek,
 - v. Those opposed: None.
 - vi. Ruthann will submit to the Select Board for approval based on this vote.
4. Continued Discussion on Information Dissemination – the challenges of communicating in the information age
 - a. Brookline.News update (John V.)
 - i. Article re legal advertising passed at Special Town Meeting.
 - ii. Town can now use Brookline.News as vehicle for hard copy legal notices.
 - iii. Globe is only effective current vehicle for legal advertising.
 - b. Ballot question information (John V.)
 - i. State legislation allows Town to present both side of a ballot question.
 - ii. Town Counsel through Town Clerk's office will present both sides.
 - iii. Town Counsel will determine whether statements are factual/reasonable.
 - iv. Town Clerk prepares the "book" and send it out.
 - v. Votes: (1) Override to fund Town/school services, (2) debt exclusion to fund borrowing for new Pierce School.
 - c. Candidates Forum (LWV/BrooklineCAN sponsored)
 - i. April 20th.
 - ii. Election 4/22 through
5. Update on ARPA funding Round Two – Ruthann reported
 - a. Applications were due Feb 7.
 - i. Note transportation related applications.
 - ii. Application to replace Senior Center van with electric vehicle and charging station.
 - iii. 1st ARPA meeting to review proposals is Friday 2/17 at 2pm...
 - iv. Potential round 3 to redistribute unspent money from round 1.

- v. BCF is starting to think/plan post-ARPA.
 - b. Chas Carey's recommendation for Town projects.
 - i. Coordinating with other applications.
- 6. Pedestrian safety
 - a. Continue discussion on micro mobility
 - i. Jim Lee – Not clear what is being proposed for a new law/regulation re micro-mobility but expect a presentation on March 8th and CoD then will prepare a written opinion related to the legislation.
 - ii. John Seay – LCAC presentation resulted in heated discussion re pedestrians versus micro-mobility devices on sidewalks.
 - iii. Note expected “two-way” micro mobility traffic on sidewalks.
 - iv. Brian Kane Head of Transportation Board spoke to CoD meeting.
 - v. Brian Kane is addressing CoA at March meeting.
 - vi. Yolanda – Brian Kane indicated regulations would not be put in place until full vetting and discussion with groups and people in Brookline.
 - vii. John V. – Transportation Board decision likely to come to Select Board.
 - viii. Agreed – Wisdom of Solomon is required.
- 7. Guest speakers for Age-Friendly
 - a. Potential guests to invite:
 - i. Amanda Hirst (new BPL Director) – Invited to be speaker at next meeting.
 - ii. Charles “Chas” Carey (consider for next meeting after CoA attendance)
 - iii. New Brookline Police Chief when hired.
 - iv. New Transportation Administrator.
 - v. Maria Morelli – re Harvard Street Corridor development.
- 8. Rodent Task Force – updates from Town Meeting
 - a. Devices in place.
 - b. John V. – Recent effort to enforce trash rules with fines and liens on buildings if fines unpaid and additional possibility of State fines of \$2,000/day.
 - c. Rodents “hibernate” in the cold but will be reappearing as weather warms.
- 9. January Special Town Meeting and Spring Town Meeting update (John VanScoyoc)
 - a. Spring Town Meeting – In person with hybrid element.
- 10. Collaboration with DPW on recycling and hazardous waste pick-ups
 - a. Planning for a “textile” recycling day at the Senior Center.
- 11. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Transportation
 - i. Ruthann – Senior Center issued an r/f/p for an older adults subsidized transportation pilot.
 - ii. Selection committee reviewing proposals submitted in response.
 - iii. Asked for additional \$50K from ARPA to fund transportation.
 - iv. 1000 rides in January which is more than any month pre-COVID.
 - v. Lynne – Consulting with Maria Foster re transportation for Farmers Market coupon program.
 - vi. Example is \$2 per ride or \$.50 per ride for low income.
 - vii. 3 videos produced by TRIPPS re using smartphones for transportation.
 - b. Housing
 - i. MBTA community housing plan for Harvard Street corridor.
 - ii. Need context for development plans.
 - c. Health
 - i. Health Department Fall Prevention Program

- ii. Fall survey planned for end of February will determine type of program.
 - iii. Public Health Week is 4/3-4/6/2023 will include an Open House.
 - iv. PFAS (forever chemicals) – Speaker during Public Health Week.
 - v. Applied for ARPA 2-year funding re Farmers Market coupon program.
- d. Library
 - i. No report.
- e. Council on Aging (CoA)
 - i. See related items above.
- f. Recreation – Josh reported
 - i. Senior Nature walk with Autumn today drew 17-18 people.
 - ii. Theme was “restfulness in nature”.
 - iii. Walks are second Tuesday in the month and will resume next fall.
 - iv. Yolanda provided positive feedback re walks value.
 - v. Monthly trips – Dawson led tour at McMullen Museum at BC 3/28.
 - vi. Pickleball – Mondays 8-10am at Warren Field sold out.
 - vii. Pickleball – adding Friday afternoons.
 - viii. Pickleball – adding 2 Fridays in May for older adults.
 - ix. Pickleball – Ruthann told story of engagement in older adult community of new resident through pickleball.
 - x. Brookline Day – Confirmed Sunday 9/10 in Coolidge Corner again.
- g. Commission on Disabilities
 - i. See 6. micro-mobility discussion.
- h. Communications – Age Friendly TV
 - i. Age-Friendly web updates? <https://www.brooklinema.gov/657/Age-Friendly-Cities-Committee>
 - ii. Episode 40 - Valerie Fletcher of Institute for Human Centered Design.
- 12. Miscellaneous & new business**
 - a. Harvard Corridor study re MBTA community development.
 - b. CPA funds for parks, open spaces, historic preservation and possibly housing.
 - c. Bridle path considerations.
- 13. Next meeting March 14th, 2023 at 1pm**