

**BROOKLINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**  
**Meeting of March 4, 2020; 7 pm**  
**Brookline Department of Public Health, Library**  
**11 Pierce Street, Brookline, MA 02445**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners in attendance: Hadassah Margolis, Elizabeth Stillman, Rebecca Stone, Jennifer Goldsmith, Meenakshi Garodia

Commissioners absent: Felina Robinson, Nicole McClelland, Gloria Rudisch

Others in attendance: None

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. Review of the calendar :

a. March 5 League of Women Voters library event to celebrate Women's History Month and the anniversary of suffrage. Ms. Stone will be at the event tabling with flyers about the essay contest.

b. Essay submissions review 3/11 at Ms. Stone's house at 6:30 p.m.

c. At tonight's meeting: decision on Brookline Woman of the Year.

d. Essay winners will be notified by next weekend (3/14-15/2020)

e. Women Who Inspire Us event will be on 3/25.

f. We need to consider prep for April meeting in terms of TM warrants we might want to learn more about/support

g. June 3rd meeting/July meeting-Ms. Stillman has a conflict (evening summer class)

h. Town meeting dates have changed, we will adjust our calendar accordingly.

2. Public Comment: No one appeared for public comment.

3. Discussion of Event Planning for 3/25 event:

Brookline Woman of the Year: At 7:18 pm, with a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, the Commission entered into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing nominations. Adjourned Exec. Session and returned to open session at 7:36 p.m.

With a unanimous vote, the Commission chose Kim Kushner as the Brookline Woman of the Year for 2020. Kushner is the founder/organizer of Brookline Thrives at the Brookline Food Pantry. She received 10 separate nominations. All nominees will be recognized at the 3/25 event. Ms. Stone will notify the nominees via phone and nominators via e-mail.

Once this is done, there will be a more public announcement via email blast and facebook post as well as notification to the Brookline Tab so they may write a feature. All social media posts will be linked to the Commission website. Ms. Stone will collect e-mail addresses of people the commission thinks should be included in the e-mail blast. The Woman of the Year will be asked to speak at the event and will be consulted as to who would be the best person to introduce her. The commission further discussed the nature of the physical award that will be presented to the winner and recognition certificates for other nominees. Ms. Robinson has secured the space and BIG streaming of the event. We have also organized catering but may need to rethink this after consulting with the Department of Public Health. Ms. Goldsmith will write vignettes about nominees for the event.

Woman Who Inspires Me Essay Contest: the Commission discussed awards for winners in each group and determined that Ms. Stone would look into journals printed with the name of the commission and event for each winner. There were 65 entries in all grades at the time of the meeting with the deadline on March 6 at midnight. Ms. Garodia created a google sheet for scoring each essay along the following criteria: 1. Heartfeltness, 2. Strength of inspiration, 3. Quality of expression (keeping age in mind) and 4. Overall score. Ms. Stillman will populate the google sheet with essay reference numbers once all entries are received and assign two readers to each essay. Essays will be circulated in a PDF with each entry numbered to correspond with entered names on the google sheet. Commissioners are asked to have done their reading/scoring before the meeting on 3/11/2020 at Ms. Stone's house at 6:30 p.m.

4. Warrant Review planning (anticipating April decisions on articles to be considered by BCW). Warrant closes 3/5/2020. When it is available, BCW will look through it and make decisions about articles that are related to our mission and organize by: definite yes (hold public hearing and consider supporting), definite no (not relevant to BCW mission), and gray area (possible relevance to discuss). When the warrant is available, Ms. Stone will circulate the link to it. Commissioners should read through and make determinations prior to the meeting to facilitate conversation and help determine which articles the commission should consider with a public hearing. Commissioners agreed we should review a maximum of 5 articles at our May meeting. Each commissioner shall forward their preferences on articles to consider to Ms. Stone prior to

the meeting. One article to be on the lookout for is one establishing a policy to prioritize women-owned and person-of-color ("minority")-owned businesses in local procurement. Ms. Margolis is a co-petitioner with Deborah Brown on the article.

5. Comments/Questions on recent BFAC report and Annual Report Draft: No Comments/questions.

6. Check-In/Updates (as needed) for ongoing efforts:

a) Recruitment: Homa Sarabi (who came to speak with us in November) has submitted an application. It appears to lack some key information; Ms.Stone will follow up with Ms. Sarabi.

b) Ms. Garodia wants to pursue working with the Schools on a curriculum for school based gender equality. Commissioners emphasized that she should explore with the PSB Guidance department what already exists in schools in this regard and report back at the June meeting.

c) Ms. Stone will reach out to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion about pursuing a wage review of Town non-aligned personnel to see if there is any evidence of gender discrimination in wages.

7. New Business: Ms. Goldsmith announced that she does not intend to seek reappointment to the Commission when her term expires in August 2020, citing a very full schedule and feeling spread too thin. Commissioners expressed appreciation for all she brings to the BCW. She will provide a definite decision about her plans at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:57 p.m.