

BROOKLINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2019
Brookline Department of Public Health, Health Department Library, 2nd Floor
11 Pierce Street, Brookline, MA 02445

Commissioners in Attendance:

Cheryl Snyder, Treasurer
Jennifer Goldsmith
Nicole McClelland
Rebecca Stone
Grace Watson

Others in Attendance: Caitlin Starr, Meggan Levene

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Snyder at 7:05 pm.

1. Public Comment Period (7:00pm – 7:15pm) No one appeared for public comment.
2. Q & A with Caitlin Starr; Assistant Director, Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations

Ms. Starr described her liaison role between her Office and the BCW. She is a connector and also maintains the town website dedicated to BCW. Commissioners discussed wanting to update the BCW website and the need to transition things like the email address/contact information because of changes in membership on the Commission. Ms. Starr promised to work with the BCW to improve the website. She is very open to more regular communication with the BCW and can attend meetings a few times a year, but cannot attend regularly.

Ms. Starr provided information on programs sponsored by her office as well as referencing pop-up town hall meetings, all of which might serve as ways for the BCW to increase its visibility and/or recruit new members. Upcoming events include:
Thursday July 11th from 1:30-6:30 at the Farmers Market
Wednesday July 24th at 6PM at Cypress Field
Thursday September 5th from 1:30-6:30 at the Farmers Market

She reported they are trying to plan one or more in August with BHA.

3. Approval of Minutes from the May 2019 meeting
May minutes were unanimously approved with a few specified corrections.
4. Commission planning
Commissioner Cheryl Snyder (Treasurer) announced that this would be her last meeting. She explained that she was resigning for personal reasons and said she looked forward to participating as a member of the public in future efforts of the BCW.

Acknowledging that the Commission needed to rebuild after many longtime Commissioners had or intended to retire, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the following acting leadership board:

Rebecca Stone - Acting Chair

Nicole McClelland - Acting Vice Chair

Jennifer Goldsmith - Acting Secretary

Grace Watson - Acting Treasurer

The acting board will serve until more of the currently empty seats on the Commission are filled. There are 11 seats on the Commission, many currently not filled and one or two more with members who have agreed to serve only until replaced. Commissioners agreed that it makes sense to fill the commission seats first and then elect new leadership.

Commissioners discussed the need to clarify the mission, to communicate more effectively with the Select Board and other related boards and commissions, and also wanting to have better visibility in the community, in order to attract strong new members to apply.

Ms. Snyder and Ms. Goldsmith explained that the Commission traditionally had met in July at a restaurant or other more convivial setting. Ms. Stone suggested that the Commission use the July meeting to reflect on the year and plan for the coming fiscal year. Commissioners agreed and suggested that BCW renewal should include a review of the mission, the enabling by-law, and discussion of community events/activities and outreach. We want to increase the visibility and impact of the Commission. In order to prepare documents for the July meeting, Commissioners agreed on several planning tasks:

- Ms. Goldsmith agreed to work on a planning document with ideas for outreach and possible events or projects. Commissioners were asked to send ideas to her for inclusion in that document.
- Ms. Stone, Ms. McClelland, and member of the public Meggan Levene (also a Pct. 3 TMM) agreed to work together to propose new language for the BCS Mission statement.

After a brief review of the Open Meeting Law and its requirements for public notice and deliberation in posted meetings, the Commission agreed to a date of July 16th for the next meeting, tentatively planned at Veggie Crust Pizza.

5. Adjournment at 8:42 p.m.