

# Tri-State Learning Collaborative Summit

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## BrooklineCAN development

### Premises

- Receptivity to innovation
- Substantial creative and productive potential among older residents
- No substantial new financial resources on the horizon
- Widespread ignorance about existing resources
- Extensive aversion among older people to self-identification as “older”
- Commitment to inclusion

### Original organizing

- Neighborhood meetings in living room with participation by CoA director and private, non-profit
- Shift to town-wide exploratory committee with focus on local adaptation of the “village” model
- Collaboration of residents, CoA, and private, non-profits

### Mode of operation of Steering committee

- designating someone to chair the working group,
- setting meeting dates,
- preparing meeting agendas,
- letting various voices be heard in agenda development,
- keeping discussions on the agenda and covering the agenda,
- taking notes,
- distributing notes and action items
- create ad-hoc subcommittees to address more complicated issues

## BrooklineCAN organizational model

- Decentralized
- Program committees with coordination through Steering committee
- Meeting space made available by Council on Aging
- Money managed by 501c3 associated with CoA.
- Governance put in place after a few years of successful operation
- All volunteer until employment of a part-time membership assistant

## Emphasis on pragmatism and immediate results

- Electronic newsletter
- Educational programs
- Discount program

## Emergence of Livable Community Advocacy committee

- Interest in livability issues identified by Smart Growth movement
- Cultivate relationships with Town Departments
- Pursue issues of widespread interest such as winter sidewalk maintenance in commercial areas
- Respond to member interests
  - Rest rooms open to the public
  - Guide to elevator buildings open to the public

## Formation of Age-Friendly City initiative

- Built on success of Livable Community Advocacy Committee
- Sound relationships with multiple Town Departments
- Aim is to infuse age-friendly perspective into all operations of multiple Town departments
- Application submitted by Board of Selectmen
- Initiative is guided by a Selectman's committee; board member is co-chair
- Limited willingness of Town Administrator to commit staff time