

BROOKLINE PAX NEWS

Volume XXIV No. I

www.brooklinepax.org

January 2013

Co-chairs: Frank Farlow & Marty Rosenthal

Newsletter Production by Frank Farlow

Brookline PAX

51st Annual Meeting & Awards

Sunday, February 10, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Martin Luther King Room, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough Street

(In the event of snow, check www.brooklinepax.org for possible rescheduling to Monday, February 11, same location and time)

Admission: A donation to the Brookline Emergency Food Pantry (nonperishable food or personal care items)

“The Drug Lab Scandal, the Drug War, and Junk Science”

Nancy Gertner, Harvard Law professor and recently retired federal judge

Ms. Gertner’s presentation will be followed by a period of questions and answers.

Election of officers and Board members

Annual Awards

- Ethel & Ben Alper Progressive Activism Award: **Leaders of the Brookline Teen Center**
- Jack Backman Social Justice Award: **Robert Sable**
- Ethel Halperin Lifetime Achievement Award: **Estelle Katz**

EARLY SPONSORS (To become a sponsor, call Frank Farlow at 232-9654)

Patrons: Marty & Frank Farlow, Chobee Hoy; Sustaining Sponsors: Linda Jason & Andy Fischer, Virginia LaPlante, Julia Johnson & Rep. Frank Smizik; Sponsors: Sarah Axelrod, Carol & Frank Caro, Regie Healy

Campaign Kickoff Party – Sunday, April 7, 3:30-5:00, 63 Buckminster Road

Help PAX kick off the race for Brookline’s future by supporting thoughtful, progressive candidates! Share food and progressive fellowship, and meet PAX-endorsed candidates as they begin their run for victory in the May Town Elections.

Join PAX or renew your membership – See back cover

In this issue:	Page
Co-chairs’ Column – Frank Farlow & Marty Rosenthal.....	2
Plastic Bans at Fall Town Meeting – Clint Richmond & Nancy Heller.....	3
Update on Chestnut Hill Realty’s Plans to Massively Expand Hancock Village —Gerry Koocher and members of PreserveBrookline.com.....	4
MO/B Rule: A MassOccupy/Brookline Update – David Klafter.....	6
PAX board members.....	7
Membership information.....	back cover

51st Year: Earning the tradition

by FRANK FARLOW & MARTY ROSENTHAL

Celebrating our 50th anniversary throughout 2012, PAX still lived up to a favorite motto, from the Talmud, of one of our past Lifetime Achievement Award winners, Sumner Kaplan: “You are not to complete the task, nor are you free to desist from it.” It’s impressive how persistent are both the general challenges our society currently faces, and the steadfastness of Brookline’s liberal activists. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. Once again, we commend PAX activists for their efforts, achieving a number of victories—though it’s always the struggle that counts, win or lose.

The big 2012 story for many of us was the state and federal elections in November. Harboring no illusions about the Democratic Party’s shortcomings, especially nationally, most of us worked hard to fight the fiscal and social Neanderthals’ agenda for the national GOP: *i.e.*, to re-elect Pres. Obama, hoping to expand on his accomplishments like healthcare, far better judges, and winding down the wars; to elect PAX endorsees Elizabeth Warren and Joe Kennedy, defeating Scott Brown’s phony bipartisanship and retaining the historic seat of Bob Drinan and Barney Frank; and re-electing Brookline’s progressive state legislators, Sen. Cindy Creem and Rep. Frank Smizik.

We also endorsed Brookline’s Harry Margolis in a difficult primary race for Governor’s Council. He won big in Brookline, but, splitting 60% of the vote with another liberal candidate from Newton, came in a strong second to the incumbent. We look forward to the possibility of his running again.

We also endorsed YES votes on November’s ballot questions 2 through 5, exemplifying progressive grassroots activism, all of which won big in Brookline, with only Q2 failing (in a close vote) statewide:

- Q2, letting doctors prescribe medication to a terminally ill patient to end her/his life;
- Q3, decriminalizing medical marijuana for patients diagnosed with debilitating illnesses like cancer, AIDS, or MS;
- Q4, nonbinding, urging a federal budget protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and accelerating job creation—by raising taxes on the wealthy, closing corporate tax loopholes, cutting defense spending, and ending the Afghanistan War; and
- Q 5, also nonbinding, supporting a constitutional

amendment rejecting constitutional rights of humans for corporations, and permitting Congress and states to limit political contributions and spending, thus reversing “Citizens United.”

Locally, we recruited and supported more Town Meeting Member (TMM) candidates than usual for May’s Town election and succeeded in gaining several more seats for liberals, mailing our usual recommendations on many warrant articles to all 247 TMM’s, both later bearing fruit in numerous votes.

In the fall, with leadership from TMM-8 Nancy Heller and TMM-3 Clint Richmond and great support from Town Meeting’s new Green Caucus, nationally significant bans were passed on polystyrene disposable food containers and plastic checkout bags (see “Plastic Bans” below). These were followed by a resolution initiated by TMM-3 Trish Connors and TMM-15 Kea van der Ziel demanding an end to the Afghanistan War and reducing the military budget (see “MO/B Rule”), and another by TMM-1 Tommy Vitolo moving the Town in the direction of making the roofs of municipal buildings “solar ready.” Town Meeting’s getting interesting!

In the spring, Town Meeting voted (124-56) a small cost of living increase for Town retiree pension benefits, opposed by the selectmen 3-2; approved (again over selectmen opposition) an amendment by TMM-2 Carol Caro to increase the Library budget by \$8,000 to keep the Coolidge Corner branch open on Sundays in August. It also adopted two resolutions, one “publicly acknowledging Brookline’s painful past” regarding slavery, introduced by Barbara Brown, and another urging a constitutional amendment to reverse *Citizens United* and control the influence of money in elections, shepherded by PAX board members Frank Farlow and David Klafter as an initiative of MassOccupy/Brookline (again, see “MO/B Rule”).

Speaking of Town Meeting, we are delighted to report that a longtime PAX priority, a democratic fundamental we have advocated for more than a decade—more recorded votes in Town Meeting—has finally been realized through the introduction of electronic voting. Each TMM is now handed a “remote” when he/she enters the auditorium, and when an electronic vote is called for by 35 TMM’s, each vote appears immediately on a large screen on stage. Since an electronic vote takes only about a tenth of the time previously required for a “voice vote”—previously one of the strongest reasons for opposition to recorded votes—we will certainly be

seeing much-improved TMM accountability going forward. Check out how your TMM's voted on the Town website (Brookline.gov) under "Town Meeting Files"!

PAX board member and TMM-15 Mariela Ames and her husband Brooks were appointed this year to the Human Relations Commission. Together with Rita McNally, also a commissioner and board member, they serve on the commission's Diversity Committee, which has been busy investigating the nature and quality of the Town's policies regarding diversity, particularly as they affect its workforce. This activity led the commission to prepare a new Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy that contemplates an expanded role for the commission and is now pending before the selectmen. Readers should note in this regard that there are currently four vacancies on the Human Relations Commission. It's a good time to consider becoming an applicant.

Our 50th anniversary Annual Meeting in February was a success, with keynote speaker Joshua Rubenstein, regional director of Amnesty International (and PAX board member), addressing "Human Rights—The Challenges Ahead," and annual awards given to Marvin Feinman (*Ethel &*

Ben Alper Progressive Activism Award, posthumous), Sen. Cindy Creem (*Ethel Halperin Lifetime Achievement Award*), and Josh Rubenstein (*Jack Backman Social Justice Award*). In addition to the PAX awards, Rep. Frank Smizik and Sen. Cynthia Creem presented certificates from the House and Senate.

Finally, in advance of our imminent 2013 Annual Meeting (see front cover), we had a fabulous early presentation of this year's Ethel Halperin Lifetime Achievement Award to progressive activist Estelle Katz. To view the 16-minute informal ceremony, including music by the great Winiker brothers (who also played at the Clinton inauguration), Estelle singing *Saint Louis Blues*, and a few short speeches (including Gov. Dukakis), see the YouTube video on our website <http://www.BrooklinePAX.org>.

For more on our activities and history, visit our website; and for more on Town Meeting articles see the Town website (<http://www.brooklinema.gov/>).

We again urge **YOU** to **sign up for PAX's listserv** to e-hear more from PAX folk, including announcements of upcoming events, and occasionally lift a keyboard finger for grassroots lobbying. Just send an e-mail with your name in the body of the message to dianaspiegel@yahoo.com.

Plastic Bans at Fall Town Meeting by CLINT RICHMOND & NANCY HELLER

In November, Town Meeting passed two landmark environmental bylaws by overwhelming majorities.

Warrant article 8 banned the use of polystyrene for packaging or serving food or drinks in Brookline. Polystyrene, a petroleum product, is a plastic identified by recycling code 6. It is commonly used as a foam (as in Dunkin' Donuts coffee cups) and in rigid forms (like clear covers for carry-out or prepackaged items).

Although rigid 6 is accepted in curbside recycling, like styrofoam it is eventually incinerated as trash since it has little value and cannot be easily separated. This is generally the case nationwide and is also true of plastics bearing codes 3, 5 & 7. Unfortunately, incineration produces large quantities of carbon dioxide, the primary cause of global warming. Polystyrene is also more toxic to produce than other plastics because of its components, such as naphtha, benzene and styrene. Furthermore, last year the federal government determined that styrene is a likely carcinogen. Studies have confirmed that it is harmful to the

factory workers who manufacture it.

The foam form is harmful to animals, which think it is food or accidentally ingest it, especially after it breaks down into floating microparticles the size of plankton.

Warrant article 9 banned disposable plastic shopping bags (unless made of biodegradable plastic – which is not used currently for bags in the US). This ban applies to all grocery stores, pharmacies and large retailers (over 2500 square feet). These bags injure and kill infants (by suffocation) and animals (for example, sea turtles think bags are jellyfish). And they are the only form of litter found in trees! Plastic bags are not accepted in our curbside recycling, which is one reason grocery stores program have such a low plastic bag recycling rate.

In Town Meeting we made the point that these products cause excessive harm but have readily available substitutes. Plastics are to be avoided generally, since they are *not* made from renewable resources and, as synthetic materials, do not biodegrade – in fact, they persist for hundreds of years. And disposable products are not the highest

and best use of fossil fuels. Brookline uses an estimated 20 million bags per year, or about one person per day. Each plastic bag is a vote for hydrofracking.

Both of these bylaws will go into effect on December 1, 2013.

Town Meeting's Green Caucus championed these articles. PAX strongly endorsed both, as did the Advisory Committee. The Board of Selectmen supported Article 9 (the plastic bag ban) and a limited version of Article 8. The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance supported Article 8, and the Sierra Club of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Humane Society supported Article 9. Rep. Frank Smizik, lead sponsor of the state bill upon which Article 9 was based, spoke effectively in favor of the ban's passage.

Brookline was the first community in the state to ban either of these two items in more than twenty years; Nantucket had previously banned *all* non-biodegradable packaging, and Great Barrington had banned polystyrene. Amherst passed a more limited polystyrene foam ban two weeks after we did.

Plastics industry lobbyists actively opposed these efforts both here and in Amherst. In Brookline they were joined by the grocery and retailing lobbies, but our local Coolidge Corner Merchants Association supported Article 9. Whole Foods has already removed plastic bags nationwide. Likewise, the Green Restaurant Association (GRA) does not allow polystyrene foam at all as part of their standard. Jim Solomon of The Fireplace, which is a member of the GRA, spoke favorably at Town

Meeting about his experience with eliminating polystyrene foam.

While many large cities on the West Coast have similar bag bans, such as San Francisco starting in 2007, to date Brookline is the largest community on the East Coast to do so.

These bylaws are important steps in making Brookline more sustainable. They sparked discussions about sustainability generally, both at Town Meeting and in the media. We hope our broad bylaws will stir action elsewhere, especially at the state level. Article 9 in particular was brought to Town Meeting because the similar state bill was stymied, partly due to industry opposition.

Contact your legislators regarding statewide legislation for the session starting in January. (Brookline's senator Cynthia Creem already supports a bag ban, but let her know it is a priority). We may also consider future extensions to our new Town bylaws.

Locally, Cambridge and Newton are considering bag bans or fees. Cambridge is also pursuing a polystyrene ban inspired by Brookline's. In the meantime, use a cloth reusable bag or paper bag whenever you can. For take-out coffee, most stores will accept your reusable cup (Starbucks often has reusable mugs you can use in-store). And never microwave in plastic – especially oily foods.

TMM-6 Clint Richmond and TMM-8 Nancy Heller, PAX endorses and members of the Solid Waste Advisory Board, were the principal petitioners of Warrant Articles 8 and 9, respectively.

Update on Chestnut Hill Realty's Plans to Massively Expand Hancock Village

by GERRY KOOCHER and other members of PreserveBrookline.com

Chestnut Hill Realty (CHR), the owner of Hancock Village, has engaged in efforts to massively increase density at this site since 2009. Most recently, it submitted an eligibility application for a nearly maximum-sized 40B development.

Located in the southern corner of Brookline, Hancock Village was created in 1946 to provide affordable housing, which was in short supply due to the large number of returning World War II veterans. An historic collaboration between John Hancock Insurance Company and Brookline transformed the

Weld Golf Course into a "garden village" development straddling the Brookline-West Roxbury border and consisting of 789 two-story attached townhouses. The Town rezoned the property for multifamily housing in return for maintaining specified limits on the type, density and extent of development by John Hancock or its successors.

With 530 units in Brookline, Hancock Village remains among the Town's largest developments and houses about 3% of its population. The carefully planned design has allowed it to exist in a well-integrated relationship with the surrounding

neighborhood, and it remains one of the best-preserved examples of the garden village architectural style in the nation. For these reasons, it meets several criteria for listing in the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

In response to CHR's expressed intent to further develop Hancock Village, in 2009 Brookline established the Hancock Village Planning Committee, a townwide committee that held public meetings with CHR about possible expansion plans. CHR presented several plans, all involving construction of about 460 new units and paving over green space valued by Hancock Village residents and the community. The plans did not conform to current zoning requirements, were projected to cost Brookline additional millions annually in public services (police, fire, and public works) and would exacerbate school crowding issues.

Over many ensuing months CHR was unresponsive to committee and community urgings to reduce the project's scale and its budgetary and school impact, and to protect the green space. This public process concluded in 2011 with the committee's Final Report*, which noted the substantial negative impacts of the proposals and CHR's intransigence in responding to Brookline's concerns. CHR pressed ahead despite the committee's report and submitted a development proposal to the Planning Department.

The Fall 2011 Town Meeting established a framework for creating Neighborhood Conservation Districts (NCDs), and formed the Hancock Village NCD as Brookline's first NCD. Approved by an overwhelming majority in Town Meeting (more than 4 to 1), this district was established in an attempt to preserve the historical significance of Hancock Village, and to give the Town a voice in future development of this property, given its large potential impact on the Town.

The design guidelines for the NCD reflect the original agreement and protect the open space and garden-style townhouse architecture that characterizes Hancock Village, requirements specified in the 1946 agreement for the Town to rezone the property. The by-law creating the Hancock Village NCD was approved by the Attorney General in June 2012.

Rather than working with the Town and its new NCD Commission, CHR responded by submitting an eligibility application to MassDevelopment* to develop the site under Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws, which allows developers to circumvent local zoning restrictions in exchange for devoting at least 20% of units to affordable housing (but only for a finite period of

time).

This proposal called for 271 new units distributed among a massive, 145-unit, 5-story tall building and several 3.5-story buildings, 150 feet long, located within 5-10 feet of abutting properties. All of these structures would be jammed into a small area that includes the green space between Hancock Village and adjoining homes, leading to a dense tangle of buildings, roads and parking areas that would obliterate the valued open space integral to the successful original design. Interestingly, proposed rents for the new units would be much higher than the current rates for the existing units.

Brookline thoroughly evaluated the proposal, and the Selectmen wrote a 62-page letter to MassDevelopment outlining the reasons that they were requesting denial of project eligibility*, stating, "[T]he Selectmen believe that the project proposed ... is poorly conceived, the site is not appropriate for any development, and the project is poorly designed for the site and the neighborhood. The project will negatively impact the existing tenants residing in Hancock Village and the abutting single-family homeowners. The proposed development does not meet any of the design criteria contained in the Handbook prepared for MassDevelopment and the other subsidizing agencies. Chestnut Hill Realty has chosen the least appropriate locations on its property to propose new buildings. The design of the proposed buildings is not consistent with the existing residences abutting the development."

The Selectmen also expressed strong concerns about transportation and traffic, public safety resources, and environmental impacts, including stormwater runoff with a resulting increase in mosquito-borne diseases. Furthermore, they emphasized Brookline's long-term robust efforts and recent successes in developing affordable housing with greater permanency.

The Town's request for denial of eligibility was reinforced by numerous additional letters to MassDevelopment from many other parties, including Brookline residents, neighborhood groups, Rep. Ed Coppinger, the Greenspace Alliance, and the Pine Street Inn. Among the points raised in these letters was that the public 1946 agreement made in exchange for rezoning should remain binding on CHR, and that this contractual obligation is not abrogated by Chapter 40B.

Clearly, CHR's hostile 40B consists of a poor conceptual design on an inappropriate site, with large negative impacts on Hancock Village residents, neighbors, and Brookline as a whole. Brookline already loses \$2 million annually on Hancock

Village. This proposed expansion would magnify the losses considerably and further stretch Brookline's limited resources, including its schools. These strains will impair the Town's more thoughtful efforts at promoting affordable housing. No one benefits from this 40B proposal except the developer. The ball is now in MassDevelopment's court to see whether it, too, will reach this conclusion and deny project eligibility.

PAX-endorsed TMM-16 Gerry Koocher is a member of PreserveBrookline.com, formed to reduce the scale of development proposed for Hancock Village.

Co-chairs' note: *PAX has not yet taken a position on the recent Hancock Village 40B proposal, but it has always supported both more affordable housing (especially in less dense areas of town) and the quality of life in neighborhoods threatened by*

greedy developers seeking excessive densities. Sometimes these priorities conflict to varying degrees. For balanced planning, PAX joined last year with our steadily increasing contingent of PAX-endorsed TMM's in South Brookline in creating the Hancock Village NCD. Under rent control this development was the Town's largest reservoir of affordable housing. (The current owner lost a major tenant lawsuit when he tried to squeeze out excessive profits during that era.) In this case the neighborhood doesn't object to affordable housing, but to the massing of the current proposal—which actually offers very few truly affordable units, and only for a limited time, while giving the owner "credit" for all the proposed units under the complex counting scheme of chapter 40B.

*Links to asterisked documents can be found at: <http://www.preservebrookline.com/paxlinks/index.html>

MO/B Rule

by DAVID KLAFTER

MassOccupy/Brookline (MO/B) was formed in the fall of 2011 by local supporters of the occupy movement and, in particular, Occupy Boston. Originally gathering as an informal network of people making food and gathering contributions of supplies and cash to ensure the continued existence of Occupy Boston, during 2012 the group gradually took on a political life and identity of its own.

The Coolidge Corner anti-war vigilers joined several PAX members and other local activists to form a group that has met regularly and followed an agenda to advance the aims of the occupy movement. Though largely drawn from the Social Security generation, MO/B has had an active and productive first year. While occupations here and around the country dissolved or were evicted by police actions coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, and hundreds of Occupy groups across the country went largely indoors and online, MO/B has kept up a steady stream of activity, including a public forum, several film showings, two successful Town Meeting resolutions, and Brookline's highly successful Budget for All ballot initiative.

We began 2012 with a focus on the Supreme Court decision "Citizens United," which had already unleashed a torrent of corporate and plutocratic funds into federal, state and even local elections. A well attended forum in the selectmen's hearing room

in April, featuring Harvard Law professor Larry Lessig and Massachusetts Clean Elections mastermind John Bonifaz, presented differing solutions to the damage wrought by the ruling. This was followed by a Town Meeting resolution at the spring Town Meeting initiated by MO/B activists (and PAX board members) Frank Farlow and David Klafter, stating that:

[T]he Town Meeting of Brookline, Massachusetts, calls upon Congress to send to the states for their ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution which restores fair elections by

- granting to the federal, state and local governments the authority to regulate the raising and spending of money to influence elections, and to allow public funding of elections, and
- establishing that only natural persons have free speech rights in the electoral realm.

We also showed a film on the various activities of the Koch brothers in behalf of the 1%, first at the Coolidge Corner Library and again in a Brookline Adult Ed session hosted by Abram (Chip) Chipman.

Later in the spring, MO/B turned its attention to the **Budget for All** ballot question, which called on the state legislature to instruct our congressional delegation to support a federal budget solution rejecting austerity measures and instead raising revenues by restoring pre-Reagan progressive tax

levels and closing corporate loopholes; ending the war in Afghanistan and cutting military spending; and protecting our social safety net including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans' and unemployment benefits, as well as investing in job creation.

Together with our counterparts in Newton, we gathered the 1200 signatures necessary to put the measure on the fall ballot in Cindy Creem's state senatorial district. After campaigning for passage of the ballot question leading up to the election and at the polls, we were rewarded when the resolution received more than 75% of the votes in Brookline – and passed in every one of the 91 Massachusetts localities where it was on the ballot by a combined margin almost as large! We followed this up at the November Town meeting with a closely related “Resolution Calling on Congress to End the War in Afghanistan, Reduce the Military Budget and Bring Our Troops and Tax Dollars Home,” authored by Patricia Connors and Kea van der Ziel, which also passed with little opposition.

Throughout this period, Mo/B has made sure its positions are presented in the local press. A number of Tab articles have been based on information we provided, and our members have written various commentaries and letters that have been published.

And of course we've maintained the anti-war vigil in Coolidge corner – now almost twelve years and counting. With signage recently refocused to include calls for Jobs and Healthcare for All as well as environmental responsibility in addition to the

demand to End the War Now, we continue to occupy Coolidge Corner every Saturday from 12:00 until 1:00 p.m. with a group varying in size from three or four to fifteen. Feel free to join us; we always have extra peace flags and signs. We also continue to meet about once a month at participants' homes.

Going forward in 2013, MO/B plans to expand its work by developing working groups around various issues, each of which can develop programs of activity in these areas. We would like to see working groups established that encompass a range of issues, from economic and racial justice to environmental protection to anti-war activities and political reform.

The spirit of Occupy lives on! The questions of inequality of wealth and access to power that were raised at striking speed to the level of national discussion by Occupy have not been addressed in a significant way, and the current debate in Washington provides little hint of real progress towards a better society. It becomes increasingly clear that if we want any movement forward, it's activities of many local groups and organizations across the country that will be needed to make it happen.

For information about how you can get involved with the MO/B, give me a call at 617-835-6703. I'll make you an offer I hope you can't refuse.

TMM-12 David Klafter, a PAX board member, is centrally active in MassOccupy/Brookline.

————— * — * — * —————

Brookline PAX Board

Co-chairs Frank Farlow and Martin Rosenthal, **Treasurer** Gary Jones

Members: Mariela Ames, Catherine Anderson, John Bassett, Craig Bolon, Edith Brickman, Nelson Brill, John Businger, Cathleen Cavell, Abram Chipman, Susan Chipman, Susan Cohen, Susan Ellis, Andrew Fischer, Phyllis Giller, Rachel Goodman, Paul Harris, Regina Healy, Amy Hendrickson, Chobee Hoy, Gilbert Hoy, Julia Johnson, Estelle Katz, David Klafter, Virginia LaPlante, Mark Levy, Rita McNally, John Reinstein, Evelyn Roll, Joshua Rubenstein, William Slotnick, Rep. Frank Smizik, Arthur Sneider, Diana Spiegel, Stanley Spiegel, Dwaigh Tyndal, Donald Weitzman, Sarah Wunsch, & Ellen Zucker

For more information about PAX, visit www.BrooklinePAX.org
and join us on **February 10** for our **51st Annual Meeting and Awards!**
Join Brookline PAX or renew your membership today!

Send this coupon with a dues check payable to **Brookline PAX** to:

Brookline PAX, P.O. Box 470525, Brookline MA 02447-0525

- Regular: single \$30, couple \$50 Student or fixed income: single \$20, couple \$30
 Sustaining Member \$50 Patron \$100
 I'd like to get more involved in PAX activities. Please call or e-mail me.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone (____) _____

BROOKLINE PAX ACTIVELY SUPPORTS

Excellent Public Education — PAX is committed to the public schools. The organization and the political candidates it supports have a proven record in support of public education, from early childhood through graduate school.

Excellent Public Services — PAX supports sustained state and local investment in quality municipal services such as police & fire protection, public health, libraries, schools, parks, recreation, and public works, as well as state services such as social programs, transportation and environmental protection. PAX and its endorsed candidates pursue policies of support for basic human needs, including healthcare for all, affordable housing, and services for both children and senior citizens.

Respect for Public Employees and Organized Labor — PAX stands up for fair labor practices and for policies that show respect for the dedicated people whose competence and commitment make Brookline and this Commonwealth work.

Respect for the Environment — PAX is committed to keeping Brookline and this Commonwealth livable and environmentally responsible — by supporting recycling; energy conservation; the maintenance and enhancement of parks, play-grounds, and green space; and sound environmental regulation.

Diversity, Social Justice, and Peace — PAX works to preserve and increase ethnic and economic diversity and social and economic justice for all, through affordable housing, universal health care, and fundamental civil rights and liberties. We respect the human rights of all people, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or location; and we support multilateral solutions to international affairs. We oppose the unilateral use of military force except when applied defensively under international law and clear and convincing evidence exists of a serious and imminent threat of aggression, and then only force no more than commensurate with the magnitude of the threat.



PO Box 470525
Brookline MA 02447-0525
www.brooklinepax.org