

### Introducing Michael Rubenstein, Brookline's New Select Board Member

Miriam Rosalyn Diamond, Council on Aging Engagement Editor

Michael Rubenstein ([mrubenstein@brooklinema.gov](mailto:mrubenstein@brooklinema.gov)) is Brookline's newly-elected Select Board Member. He shared his vision, priorities, and perspective on issues of concern to our town, seniors, and those who care for them.



Michael Rubenstein

#### What excites you about your new office?

"I am excited to tackle three intertwined challenges: the lack of reasonably priced housing in town, the high price of living in Brookline, and a budget that is stretched thin and constraints all the services we provide, including our roadways, our schools, and the Senior Center."

#### What experience and skills do you bring to this position?

"I was a software entrepreneur for over 25 years and then pivoted to the public sector. I've done work in healthcare (chairing the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Healthcare team), housing and education, community organizing, listening to people and acting on their concerns."

#### What are some highlights of your vision for Brookline?

"I believe in a vibrant and diverse community: walkable neighborhoods, thriving businesses, housing for all stages of life, all interwoven with the natural world. We also must solve our climate challenges."

#### What are your priorities to accomplish?

"My top priorities are housing and the town's fiscal challenges. We need more housing of many different types. Our inclusionary zoning helps us to develop market-rate housing along with affordable housing. We also need mixed-used development (housing with retail and offices) to create vibrant communities."

#### What role do you see yourself playing in conjunction with the Council on Aging/Senior Center?

"I see myself as an advocate for seniors: listening to them and bringing their needs to government leaders, town staff, and other community groups. We must work together to develop solutions that work for everyone."

#### How would you address issues such as transportation and parking?

"My concerns about transportation include connecting North and South Brookline and figuring out how different modes of transportation safely share public space."

Many people and many services rely on personal automobiles. Parking around the Senior Center and around commercial areas, such as Coolidge Corner and Washington Square, is a big challenge. How far people can comfortably walk to their destination is an important factor to consider as we develop transportation solutions"

#### What else would you like readers to know about the work you are doing and intend to do?

"I feel lucky to be able to combine focus on details, deep listening, and clear vision to this job."