



# ESC MESSAGE

Nancy Beeuwkes & Ruth Lauer, co-chairs

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Dear Member,

It is hard to believe that Annual Meeting is upon us! It seems that we just got started on the year and I am not ready for a retrospective. On the one hand, many people have given so much time and energy to League-ing and, on the other, there are all those things we didn't get to do yet.

Please join us at Annual Meeting on May 23 for a happy mix of business and pleasure. The Members who are able to attend will have an opportunity to socialize with old and new friends as well as tackle the business decisions of a new year.

Annual Meeting is an opportunity for you to learn more about our first year operating under the leadership of an Executive Steering Committee rather than the traditional board portfolios. Although LWV-CC isn't codifying the change yet in our bylaws, we propose to continue with this model another year, at least, to perfect what we have learned. One of the things the Board struggled with was the reaffirmation of the LWV-CC non-partisanship policy in the context of this leadership model. We finally resolved that even with co-equals we need one spokesperson.

League Membership involvement was particularly good this year thanks to the variety of activities and the work of Barbara Lewis to keep us informed and Tish Richardson to record our deliberations and actions. Four Members went to National Convention in June and made great strides in health care policy. Maybe you were one of the many able to attend the LWV Fiscal Policy Meeting in Boston or the Winter Social where we heard from the Town Administrator of Carlisle and the Concord Manager speak about the successes and

challenges the towns have experienced. Perhaps you responded to a call for Action and corresponded with your elected representatives. There were Program Planning events as well as Voter Service events such as Candidates Forum. Louise Haldeman marshaled the Observers to report on Town activities and Anne Hayden produced regular and informative *Bulletins*. Maybe you participated in Day on the Hill.

Any year that includes an Action component as well as Study and Consensus is sure to involve many Members. And we did it in the black thanks to the fastidious work of Lauren Bakewell who kept her eye on the resources. Nancy Beeuwkes gets my appreciation for her efforts to allow time for the full range of opinion while my instincts go towards moving us along!

Special thanks to all the League Members who made us welcome in their homes. It is particularly satisfying to work together on hard issues in congenial surroundings. Barbara Anthony guided us through non-member fundraising. Di Clymer and Shawna Reid also deserve our appreciation. They designed, developed and organized the House Tour last spring. My personal thanks go to all the members of the League Board who have come together with smiles, energy and too little time. They have made a difference!

While we can do the job without you, no one can take your place. Join us as we conclude a year and begin a new cycle on May 23.

Yours in Leagu-ing,

Ruth for the ESC

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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**7:00 Social and Program**

**8:15 Call To Order**

**Business Meeting**

- Credentials Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Budget Committee Report
- Audit
- Bylaw Report

Adoption of Proposed Bylaw Amendment

- Program

Local Program Report

Adoption of Program

- President's Report
- Nominating Committee Report
- Election of Officers
- Introduction of New Board
- Direction to the Board
- Any New Business
- Closing

# MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair

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The membership of LWVCC has grown this past year, from 164 total members to 174, which is great. Welcome to all our new members and congratulations to those who have brought in people who are interested in the issues that the League addresses. We have 112 individual members, 48 who are part of a multi-member household, 8 national members, and 6 honorary members of 50 years or more.

We held an Autumn Coffee in West Concord at the Concord Greene, and our annual Winter Membership Brunch at the Colonial Inn in January, both of which were well attended and very satisfying events.

Membership applications and renewals for 2007 - 2008 will be sent out in late August or early September. Please return your form and dues promptly when yours arrives, and if at any time you would like me to approach a friend or acquaintance who you think might be interested in joining the League, contact me and I will send them an application form and speak with them about joining.

## MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

Anne Hayden, Bulletin Editor

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The Membership Bulletin continues to be one of the major ways that information is transmitted to our membership. The Bulletin's goal is to provide both Concord and Carlisle members with a variety of materials and information on important issues at the local, state and national levels.

Many thanks to all who supplied articles for the Bulletin this year. Also thanks to Fran Neville who willingly produced the mailing labels, often on short notice. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your suggestions, ideas or thoughts regarding this publication. Together we can make it even better!

# BOOK GROUP

Anne Hayden & Mary Wilinsky, Co-chairs

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The LWVCC Book Group is finishing up its second year of existence, and a highly successful year it has been. Our meetings average 10-15 participants, with at least one or two new people each meeting. We have grown to about twenty-five members. We meet bimonthly at the Concord Library in Concord Center. The group has chosen to read non-fiction books. In the first year we varied our topics, but this year we decided (halfway through the year) to focus on the Middle East. While all of us expected that the book group would open up our horizons to new ideas, I don't think any of us realized just how stimulating, rewarding and energizing our discussions would be!

The books that we have read this year were: *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser; *Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill* by Jessica Stern; *Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell* by Janet Wallach; *Lipstick Jihad* by Azadeh

Moaveni; and *Istanbul: Memories and the City* by Orphan Pamuk.

We also had a movie night in early February. (Actually, it was Super Bowl Sunday but the Patriots weren't playing!) About ten of us got together at Nancy Beeuwkes' house to watch "Lawrence of Arabia" together. We had a delightful time and hope to have a similar event again next year.

Our final meeting for this year will be on Wednesday, May 30 from 10-11:30 AM in the Trustees Room of the Concord Library in Concord Center. The book we will be discussing is *Istanbul: Memories and the City* by Orphan Pamuk. Our meetings are open to all League members and their friends and we invite anyone who is interested to come and participate in our meetings.

LWVCC Book Group Meeting  
Wednesday, May 30, 2007  
Trustees Room, Concord Library – 10-11:30 AM

*Istanbul: Memories and the City*  
By Orphan Pamuk

League Members and their friends are invited to attend.

# OBSERVER CORPS

Louise Haldeman, Chair

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The League's Observer Corps continues to cover the proceedings of several of Concord's Boards and Committees in far more detail than can possibly be done by the newspapers. This year we have continued our practice, begun in the previous year, of publishing less frequently but including more material in each report, so that the reader can follow several meetings of a particular committee and thus have a better sense of the development of particular issues.

The report is mailed to all LWVCC members as well as to certain town officials. When possible it is also placed on the website.

This past year we have covered the Board of Selectmen, the Natural Resources Commission, the Board of Health, the Public Works Commission, the Planning Board, the Historical Commission, and the Municipal

Light Board. Active and constant observers for the past year have been Elsie Bracco, Gerald Lauderdale, Erica Morrison, Frances Neville, Tom Sisson, and Betsy Sluder. Barbara Anthony has been a faithful substitute. We have also been grateful to Judy LaRocca who has occasionally furnished us with reports on the School committee. We bid a sad farewell to Jean Reinhardt who found that she could no longer cover the Planning Board.

In the coming year we would like to increase our numbers so that we could cover other Boards and committees including but not limited to the school committee, the Planning Board, Housing Authority, the Recreation Commission and the two Library boards.

# STATE ACTION

Nancy Cronin, chair

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At the May 2005 LWVM State Convention two studies were voted – affordable housing and an update of the LWVM fiscal policy positions. Both are in progress under the able direction of hard working committees at the state level. Soon we will be asked to research and present a profile of our own towns to the state League on both topics - affordable housing and the impact of state aid and other factors on our own towns' finances. After the LWVM committees digest this information they will provide local Leagues with consensus questions.

In January six Concord-Carlisle members attended a workshop presented by the state League Fiscal Policy Committee at University of Massachusetts Boston. Local governments, including Concord's and Carlisle's, have been struggling to make ends meet due to rising health insurance costs, special education costs, Proposition 2 ½ limits, and recent cuts in financial aid from the state. For this reason the League is studying what can be done to improve this situation. For more information, please see the report about the Fiscal Policy workshop elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The affordable housing study was begun to evaluate legislation, regulation and programs currently on the books in Massachusetts to determine their effectiveness in providing affordable housing. The study will include topics such as senior housing, Chapter 40B (the state affordable housing law), land use, and

planning for 'smart growth'. In Concord and Carlisle new affordable housing projects are planned or are under construction, so it is important for League members to gain an understanding of the needs and requirements faced by our towns.

***Concord and Carlisle League members are needed for these two local studies.***

Membership on local study committees is enjoyable and rewarding. Please call or email Nancy Beeuwkes at 371-7293 [nbeeuwkes@aol.com](mailto:nbeeuwkes@aol.com) or Barbara Lewis 287-0049 [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net) to let them know of your interest.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> a delegation of nine Concord-Carlisle League members and one 4<sup>th</sup> grade student attended the annual LWVM Day on the Hill at the State House where the topic was "The Face of Poverty in Massachusetts". The keynote speaker was Governor Deval Patrick, and panelists included the Director of the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, the President of the Pine Street Inn, and the CEO of the YWCA Boston. Concord-Carlisle members lunched with State Representative Cory Atkins and State Senator Susan Fargo. Members lobbied legislators on bills to increase the earned income credit, give broader access to healthcare and prescription drugs, protect citizens from exposure to toxic chemicals, and assure fairness in education funding.

# FISCAL POLICY WORKSHOP

Nancy Cronin, State Action chair

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## Updating Our Fiscal Policy Positions – A State Study

On January 27<sup>th</sup> a group of LWVCC members including Nancy Beeuwkes, Cindy Nock, Dinny McIntyre, Louise Haldeman, Ginny Lamere, and Nancy Cronin attended a well organized and presented workshop by the LWVM Fiscal Policy Update Committee on the campus of U. Mass Boston. This study was voted at the last LWVM convention and is intended to update the current League positions on fiscal policy which were adopted in the early 1970's and in 1992-93. Since cities and towns are facing severe financial problems due to cuts in local aid, Proposition 2 ½, the rising cost of education, and increasing costs for health insurance, this seemed like an appropriate time to revisit the League's positions on state policies affecting municipal finance.

The committee plans to send local self-study materials to all Leagues shortly. Leagues will be expected to interview their officials and compile their own towns' local data on income, expenditures and procedures, compare it with statewide data, and report their results to the state League in June. The committee will review these reports and develop consensus questions that will be sent to local Leagues in fall 2007. Local consensus meetings will be held between November 2007 and February 2008.

The focus of the January workshop was 'Municipal Finance – Where does the money come from and where does it go?' Following is some important information presented at the workshop. Massachusetts municipalities do not have fiscal autonomy – the ability to tax is granted by the

legislature. Currently only the only local sources of taxation are the property tax, the motor vehicle excise tax, the hotel/motel room tax, and the jet fuel tax. Additional funding comes from the state in the form of 'state aid'. However state aid to all communities

in 2006 was about \$700 million below 2002 (after adjusting for inflation). This led to average statewide annual increases in property taxes between 2002 and 2005 of 3.5%, compared to 2.4% in the previous eight years. The major channels for distribution of state aid are Chapter 70 funds and lottery aid, both of which are earmarked for education.

The Education Reform Act was passed in 1993 to remedy inequities in education funding among municipalities. Prior to that act Massachusetts' state funding of education was one of the lowest in the country. Subsequently we have increased to 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation with the state paying 41.4%, localities 52.4%, and the federal government 6.2% of education costs (2003 figures). The Ed Reform Act requires a 'foundation budget' for each school district, and a required contribution from each district ('minimum local effort'). The balance is made up by Chapter 70 aid from the state which means that poorer districts receive a greater percentage of aid than wealthier districts. Even the Ed Reform formulas have not allowed localities to keep up with the rising cost of education. In addition there are some problems with the methodology of setting both the foundation budget and minimum local effort. The method of funding for Special Education is a major problem for school districts, and is an area ripe for change.

The soaring cost of health insurance is causing financial distress for communities. Under state law municipalities must pay at least 50% of the cost of health insurance for employees. The cost of health insurance has increased 63.2% since 2001, local budgets have increased 14.8%, and state aid has decreased 1%. Several bills have been filed to help communities deal with this problem.

Proposition 2 ½ was passed by initiative petition in the 1970's when the baby boomers were heading to school and there was a revolt against increasing taxes. Prop. 2 ½ limits the total tax levy and the annual rate of increase in the levy. Total property taxes cannot exceed 2 1/2 % of the total valuation of all taxable property plus new growth (from new construction) in the community, and the increase in the total tax levy cannot exceed 2 ½ % per year (levy limit). To exceed these limits an 'override' must be passed by the majority of voters at the polls. The use of overrides is becoming more and more common as communities' expenses increase. Should Proposition 2 ½ be changed?

The property tax is the historic method for collecting taxes. It started at a time when a property owner's wealth was measured by the land they owned. Today however, the connection between the real estate one owns and one's assets is more tenuous. Should the legislature allow cities and towns more flexibility to collect other taxes to supplement the property tax? Do the other potential taxes meet the League's criteria for fair taxation: - accessible to all communities, progressive, prevent disparities, improve economic flexibility, and maintain local control? These are some of the questions that this timely study will consider.

We welcome LWVCC members to participate in our local study. If you're interested, please contact Susan Sekular (978-369-8025), Louise Haldeman (978-369-8562), Barbara Lewis (978-287-0049) or Nancy Cronin (967-369-5399). If you prefer to e-mail, their addresses are in the recently mailed 2007 LWVCC membership booklet.

# ENVIRONMENT

Elizabeth Sluder, chair

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Most of the information on the natural environment in Concord comes from the bi-monthly public hearings before the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). They take place on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the evening. The NRC staff also conducts informal meetings at 7:30 am in the morning. These Conservation Coffees usually gather on the first Tuesday of the month. All Concord residents are welcome. There are usually very lively exchanges of ideas and views on what is going on – conservation-wise – in the town.

The evening public hearings are occupied mostly with applications from residents for construction-related activities that could impact wetlands, buffer zones, and conservation (preserved tracts) areas.

The NRC is charged with administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Law. The NRC issues permits to applicants whose projects meet the requirements of the State law. These permits usually come with conditions when they are approved.

It is important to note that the NRC cannot enforce violations of the State's Wetlands law in Concord. In order to do that, Concord must have a home rule wetlands by-law. It is my hope as environmental portfolio chairman that the League would lobby for the passage of a wetlands by-law by the Town of Concord.

Most of the projects brought up to the NRC are relatively small. They often involve intrusion into wetlands, buffer zones and conservation areas. Many septic tank failures (that could leach into sensitive areas) come before the NRC. The Commission reviews them carefully. Permits may be granted or denied, depending on the gravity of the impacts on

the natural environment. The details of these hearings can be found in the League's Observer Corps publication.

Serious and controversial issues do come up before the NRC. Among these are:

1. Middlesex School: The new school playing fields located over a large wetland and on a tract with a significant slope, on the other side of the marsh. The slope would be removed and the ground leveled off to accommodate new tennis courts and soccer fields. The issue dates back to the 1960's and in the 1990's the State courts decided that the school had a right to develop its property.

In 2006 the school came up before the NRC to get permits for the development of these projects. The NRC reviewed the school's plans, but in the end it was the Planning Board that decided whether the permits should be granted. The Planning Board approved the project with conditions.

2. "A Place to Grow": This project involved the construction of a childcare facility on Strawberry Hill Road. The residents of the Strawberry Hill neighborhood feared that the character of their neighborhood would be irreversibly impacted by the project. They were concerned by the increase in traffic and the potential for stream and groundwater pollution from this development. They attended the hearings of the NRC en masse. There were so many people present that the hearing had to be moved to the large meeting hall at the Town House. The project came up before the NRC on October 15<sup>th</sup> and was continued on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The most pressing

concerns involved traffic and construction-related activities. These matters are in the jurisdiction of the Planning Board.

There were lengthy arguments back and forth. No decisions were made on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and the hearing was continued to November 15<sup>th</sup>. At that time the findings were publicized on the Summary of Facts, the plans of the proposed work had been amended during the course of the Commission's deliberations and compliance of the project with the State Wetlands Protection Law. The project was approved with the Standard Order of Conditions and Special Conditions by the NRC and the Planning Board.

3. Proposal to Develop new playing fields for the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School – The primary location of these fields was to be on School property adjacent to the existing school in the Brister's Hill neighborhood. Residents in the vicinity opposed the project. It was presented to the NRC on December 6<sup>th</sup> and the hearing was continued to December 20<sup>th</sup>. The NRC members visited the site with the Town Manager, Christopher Whelan, Jeff Adams of the Playing Field Advisory Group, and Patricia Hecht of the Brister's Hill Neighborhood Group. They all reviewed the plans for the proposed playing fields. It was agreed that an alternate plan would be available for the NRC to review in 2007. Decisions would be made later.
4. The state of Chamberlin Park – It is a mini-park of one half acre with a path extending from Lowell Road through an upper garden section, through a grove of coniferous trees, over an extended wooden bridge (catwalk that spanned Mill Dam Brook and its wetlands) to, finally, the Keyes Road parking lot. The

little park was given to Concord by a trust of the Chamberlin family. The responsibility for maintenance was to be with the NRC and a generous endowment was set up to care for the park. The NRC with its busy schedule did not devote enough time to maintain the park properly.

I took a walk through the area and took photographs of evident neglect. The wetland and the brook were overgrown with invasive weeds and littered with old soda and whiskey bottles. The garden section near Lowell Road needed more care. The lawn and the flowerbeds were unkempt and one of the wooden garden benches was broken. The pictures taken were distributed to the NRC, the town manager's office, to League Board members, and to Renee Garelick who was a trustee and member of the League. It was she who brought up this issue at a League Board meeting.

Funds from the endowment were released. The budget for this park for fiscal year 2007 was \$25,250. This was to cover: 1) mowing and maintenance, 2) bench replacement, tree treatment and invasive plant removal, 3) native plantings that included shrubs for the existing flower beds and 4) replacement of invasive "volunteer" Norway maples. There would be native wildflower plantings in some of the flowerbeds. Extensive plant lists were included in the budget.

I hope, as environmental portfolio chair, to watch the project develop and improve. I look for a happy ending to the Chamberlin Park story.

2006 has been a busy year. I look forward to many activities in 2007. Concord has had an outstanding record in preserving its natural and cultural beauty. It needs to add a wetlands by-law to this distinguished record.

# RIVER STEWARD AWARD PROGRAM

Debbie Barr and Elizabeth Sluder

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There is one yearly event that we (Deb Barr and I) look forward to, which is Riverfest. The Leagues in the towns within the three river basin (the Assabet, the Sudbury, and the Concord) celebrate its wild and scenic beauty. The Leagues are Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Sudbury, Framingham, Wayland, and Acton. The Leagues work with the Suasco River Stewardship Council in giving deserving people and institutions in these various town awards for their contributions to preserving the integrity of the rivers. They are an outstanding feature of our local

landscape. Lee Steppacher of the National Park Service is the invaluable advisor and coordinator of Riverfest.

The awards are given out at a reception held at the Visitors' Center of the Minutemen National Park at the Old North Bridge on the Friday evening before the Riverfest weekend in June. On Saturday and Sunday the towns have their celebrations on the river. Much fun!

## WINTER FUNDRAISER

Barbara Anthony, Chair

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### 2007 ANNUAL APPEAL LETTER TO LEAGUE FRIENDS

In January we sent out an annual appeal letter to non-members in Concord and Carlisle asking for their support so that we could continue to provide broad-based programs and educational services to our towns. As of the end of March we have had a heart-warming response from 29 donors. Many thanks to them for their generosity. Their contributions will indeed help us to continue our good work.

William and Louise Barber  
Cliff and Dorrie Bean  
Walter and Susan Birge  
Agnes Brengle  
Jane Brooks  
Greg and Mary Ferguson  
Winifred Ferguson  
Cline and Gretchen Frasier  
Art and Diane Fulman  
Sarah Garth

Eileen Gabrian  
Ian and Jennifer Gillespie  
Lloyd and June Grace  
Connie Hershey  
Mary Kemp  
George Kidder  
Ursula Kristoffy  
Dr. and Mrs. Albert Lesneski  
Ron McAdow and Betsy Stokey  
Nicholas Miller  
Lal Minton  
Katherine Munro  
Gordon and Pam Pettengill  
Barbara Pike  
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Shaw  
Leli Sudler  
Barbara Wheeler  
Herbert and Angie Wilkins  
Anne Winslow  
Byron and Ann Woodman

# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

**Nancy P. James**

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# BYLAW COMMITTEE REPORT

Anne Hayden, Erin Pastuszynski, Tish Richardson

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After initially reviewing the LWVCC Bylaws, the Bylaws Committee recognized that the organizational structure outlined in the Bylaws does not reflect current practice in the LWVCC. To correct this discrepancy, the Bylaws Committee recommends that the Bylaws be amended to include the following language.

**Proposed Amendment**  
**to the ByLaws of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle**

Amend the ByLaws by adding new Article XIII, as follows:

Article XIII  
Temporary Variations in Governance Structure

*Temporary Variations in Governance Structure.* Notwithstanding any provision of these ByLaws to the contrary, the membership may, at any Annual Meeting, accept a slate of officers and directors that varies from that otherwise required by Articles IV and V of the ByLaws. The leadership group elected at any such Annual Meeting shall carry out the responsibilities assigned to officers and directors in these ByLaws.

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As the Bylaws have not been revised since 1990 and may not accurately reflect current LWVCC practice, the Bylaws committee further recommends that a committee be formed for the upcoming year to thoroughly review the Bylaws and recommend revisions as necessary.

# **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Fran Neville and Lauren Bakewell, Co-Treasurers**

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# PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM

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**MAINTAIN ALL CURRENT LOCAL POSITIONS** with these proposed wording changes:

New words in **bold**, deleted words in [~~brackets strikethrough~~].

4.4 Support the development **and maintenance** of public swimming facilities, [with priority for the construction of an indoor pool], and the improvement of natural bodies of water.

11.2 (b) private and public efforts to provide such housing should be encouraged, especially if they provide economic mix within neighborhoods [rather than a “ghetto” development];

12.3 Support the regular updated **of** the Concord accessory apartment conversion bylaw **as a means to provide housing alternatives within existing housing stock.**

12.4 MOVE TO WETLANDS SEC 17.3

13.1 Support Town acquisition of land for  
a. **affordable housing, including** subsidized housing.

13.2 Support land taking by eminent domain **only** as a last resort **and** when it satisfies the public need and the public good;

13.2 paragraph 2 (Criteria to be considered for Town land acquisition include[s].)

17.3 **Support strengthening Concord flood plain and wetland bylaws.** (MOVED FROM 12.4)

**STUDIES** : None Proposed

## **RECOMMENDED INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**

### Wetlands Bylaw

Pursuant to 12.4 (renumbered 17.3), explore advantages and possible disadvantages to having a Town Wetland Bylaw.

### Town Planning

Pursuant to 1.1.1, Explore how a proposed building project travels through the various town committees and staff members for approval. How is the work of the committees and town staff coordinated?

# LWV CONCORD CARLISLE LOCAL PROGRAM 2007-2008

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## Summary of Positions

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Town Government                   | 10. Town Facilities                 |
| 2. Education                         | 11. Housing                         |
| 3. Public Health/Condom Availability | 12. Growth                          |
| 4. Recreation                        | 13. Land Acquisition and Management |
| 5. Animal Control                    | 14. Land Use                        |
| 6. Crime Prevention                  | 15. Agricultural Land Use           |
| 7. Tourism                           | 16. Environmental Health            |
| 8. Hanscom Field                     | 17. Wetlands                        |
| 9. Long Range Planning               | 18. SuAsCo River Basin              |

## Detailed Positions

### 1. Town Government, Concord

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle supports a local government which is based on the fullest possible participation of informed citizens in its policy and decision making processes. The League finds that Town Government as now practiced in Concord is both democratic and effective. To make it more responsive, open, and fair, we would support the following improvements:

1. 1. 1 Increased communications between:
  - a) committees and their appointing authorities, including periodic review and supervision, as well as more explicit definition of committee's charges
  - b) committees and the public
  - c) committee chairmen and members, including once yearly training/orientation sessions, and detailed and written orientation information for new members. (Modified 2001)
1. 1. 2 Increased citizen participation through:
  - a) more publicity of hearings
  - b) early notices of committee meetings and hearings with agendas
  - c) use of all available media to inform public on town affairs
  - d) distribution of town information package to newcomers
  - e) wider distribution of green cards.
- 1.1.3 Committee procedures made more effective by:
  - a) specific term lengths for committee members
  - b) use of sub use and ad hoc committees for specific studies and to relieve overburdened committees
  - c) informative minutes, publicly available
  - d) termination process for unneeded committees
- 1.1.4 Adequate clerical and financial support with information given to committees by the Town Manager on services available.
- 1.1.5 Fair and responsible appointment process strengthened by:
  - a) expanding use of green cards, with regular updating and review by citizens and the Town Manager's office.
  - b) posting vacancies with at least two weeks between posting and appointment
  - c) flexible, informal interviews with prospective appointees
  - d) prompt appointments
  - e) reasonable use of recommendations from committee members

- f) geographical distribution of committee members for those committees whose functions warrant it.
  - g) use of the following criteria in appointing committee members: availability for attendance at committee meetings; eagerness to serve; expertise; work and/or volunteer experience; ability to work with others; stamina (not in order of priority).
- 1.2 League members were firm in opposition to:
- a) use of green cards as an exclusive source of appointees
  - b) use of a search committee to nominate appointees
  - c) election of more town committees (adopted March 1977, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.3 The League supports the continuation of the Town Meeting as the primary deliberative and legislative body of the Town (adopted Feb. 96, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.4 The League supports open Town Meeting as currently practiced with voting on Town Meeting issues taking place within the sessions of the town meeting. (Adopted Feb. 96, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.5 The League believes that it is the obligation of the Town to provide all citizens seeking to attend Town Meeting, the opportunity to participate. If it should become impossible, on a regular and frequently recurring basis, to accommodate all of the persons wishing to attend Town Meeting, then the League would support a representative form of town meeting as an alternative to the present open Town Meeting. (Adopted Feb. 96, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.6 The League opposes any change in Town Meeting Voting that would separate the vote from the deliberative process. (Adopted Feb. 96, reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.7 The League opposes any voting method that would constrain participants from having full access to information about the questions on which they are voting. (Adopted Feb. 96 reaffirmed 1999)
- 1.8 To further ensure that the residents of Concord are informed participants, the League urges that the Town take greater measures to:
- a) Increase the understanding of citizens about their local government.
  - b) Offer a fuller explanation of committee and board duties along with the Green Cards. Advertise committee vacancies promptly and widely.
  - c) Give wider distribution to the Town Report. (Adopted Feb. 1996, reaffirmed 1999)

## **Town Government, Carlisle**

That the town of Carlisle should continue its present form of government, strengthening its effectiveness by improved communication and cooperation among boards and by the use of administrative and technical support when needed.

- 1.9.1 Support the use of administrative and technical assistance to foster the effective use of volunteers' time and expertise.
- 1.9.2 Support an annual meeting, chaired by the Selectmen at which all town committees present their accomplishments and goals.
- 1.9.3 Support issue-oriented meetings as needed, among pertinent boards. The ultimate responsibility for these meetings lies with the Selectmen.
- 1.9.4 Support timely distribution of pertinent information by committees to townspeople. (Adopted 1980, amended 1983, reaffirmed 1999)

## **2. Education**

Concord and Carlisle in pursuit of quality education in the public schools:

- 2.1 Support a school organization that encourages the following: stability—requiring few major changes and little redistricting in order to preserve a sense of school community; low pupil-teacher ratios with the lowest in the primary grades; respect for parental preference among a range of teaching styles; broad uniform program aims; sound fiscal management. (Reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.2 Support for a system of guidance and social work that allows for department flexibility and staff mobility and interaction, particularly with the elementary schools. (Adopted July 1980, reaffirmed 1999)

- 2.3 Support for a system of guidance and social work which has as its primary role maintenance of the climate of learning of the student body as a whole and the consideration of the needs of the individual student; and which communicates openly with parents and provides information through channels such as workshops, written material, PTG meetings, etc. (Reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.4 Support additional, vocational education in the school system. An ideal system would include a) adequate up to date facilities; b) flexibility in time, choice, program, and amount of concentration on vocational or academic courses by each student; c) coordination with instruction in the Concord and Carlisle systems; d) full use of facilities for the whole community after regular school hours, evenings and summers; e) expansion of an improved work-study program; f) career awareness beginning in the elementary grades. (Reaffirmed 1999).
- 2.5 Support at Concord-Carlisle High School a curriculum development process utilizing inputs by departments, cooperation between departments, citizen input, and administrative and school committee review. Curriculum to afford flexible scheduling of student and teacher time to create opportunities for course options. Curriculum to emphasize interdepartmentally a sampling of many areas; development of analytic skills, written and oral communication skills; preparation for citizenship; and requirements for graduation in courses in many disciplines. (Adopted 1971, amended '78,'79,'83,'85 and Reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.6 Support a program of staff development and teacher evaluation to be reviewed regularly by the School Committees (adopted 1971, modified and reaffirmed, 1999)
- 2.7 Support the availability of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for students of Concord-Carlisle High School and at the Concord and Carlisle Middle Schools. (Adopted 1971, reaffirmed 1999, amended 2001)
- 2.8 Support a budget that includes adequate funding. (Adopted 1971 modified and reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.9 Support efforts by the schools and the parents associations to improve communications with the community. (Adopted 1971 reaffirmed 1999)

### 3. Public Health: Condom Availability

The Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters recognizes that AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) has become a major health problem in this country, particularly for young adults and is now the leading cause of death for men between the ages of 18 and 40 and the fourth leading cause of death for women in the same age category. The League also recognizes that sexual intercourse is the most frequent mode of transmission for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), although there are other ways in which the disease may be transmitted.

Because of the potential threat to the young people of our community, the League urges the citizens of Concord and Carlisle, in conjunction with their Boards of Selectmen, The Regional School Committee, The Boards of Health, and other public and private agencies to embark upon a program of making condoms available to young people under conditions that include counseling and education as to inherent risks. This program should be undertaken in the knowledge that while properly used, condoms reduce the risk of AIDS, hepatitis B, other venereal diseases, and unplanned pregnancies, they do not remove all risk. The League believes that recognition of such risk falls on the individual. Every individual engaging in sexual intercourse must assess the risks involved and assume responsibility for his/her actions. (Approved by Board January 1995 reaffirmed 1999, language updated 2002)

### 4. Recreation, Concord

- 4.1 Support a comprehensive public recreation program in Concord.
- 4.2 Support a master plan for recreation in Concord.
- 4.3 Support the acquisition of land to meet the active recreational needs of the Town.
- 4.4 Support the development **and maintenance** of public swimming facilities, [~~with priority for the construction of an indoor pool,~~] and the improvement of natural bodies of water. ) Modified 2007)
- 4.5 Support the improvement and extension of Concord's present bike/foot path system including the preparation of a long-range construction plan.

- 4.6 Support the additional facilities for bicyclists, including a bike/foot path map, marked paths and street crossings, and safe racks well-placed around Town.
- 4.7 Support recreational activities on conservation lands that do not alter the integrity of the land for conservation purposes.
- 4.8 Support the increased distribution of information on conservation lands to townspeople.
- 4.9 Support making information on conservation land available upon request to visitors to Concord. (Reaffirmed 1999, amended 2000)

### **Bike Footpaths Carlisle**

- 4.10 Support the development of bike/foot ways in Carlisle and the promotion of bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- 4.11 Support a pilot project for the development of bike/foot ways (1982, reaffirmed 1999)
- 4.12 Support a master plan for bike/foot ways for all existing town roads.
- 4.13 Support the Planning Board regulations requiring developers to build bike/foot paths in all new developments. (Adopted 1973, amended, 1980, 1982, reaffirmed 1999)

### **5. Animal Control, Concord**

- 5.1 Support a dog control by-law that: is consistent and easy to understand; defines “under control by owner”; prohibits dogs from school property during classroom hours except with express permission of the principal; included a limited leash law for the business areas of Concord, school property outside of classroom hours, and town playgrounds; includes a “pooper scooper” provision for the business areas of Concord, playgrounds, and school property
- 5.2 Support enforcement of Concord’s animal control by-law that: is based on a complaint responsive system; includes limited patrolling by dog officer in problem areas such as playgrounds, business districts, and school property plus areas that have a high number of complaints; encourages dog licensing by charging higher fines for unlicensed dogs; encourages citizen participation by expedient and appropriate response to legitimate dog-related complaints.
- 5.3 Support license fees to be set at a level to encourage neutering. (Amended 2000.)
- 5.4 Support an innovative approach to dog licensing that: encourages licensing by mailing reminders to owners of all dogs reported on the Town census; follows up on known unlicensed dogs; has mail-in license forms; has a flexible licensing schedule—perhaps every three years when dog is due for rabies shot; encourages prompt licensing by charging late fees.
- 5.5 Support educational activities such as: information packets prepared by the town and widely distributed to town citizens explaining law and responsibilities of dog owner; community programs on animal care, possibly through the schools. (Adopted May 1985, reaffirmed 1999)
- 5.6 Support the immunization of cats against rabies (in accordance with state law) and strongly urge the immunization of all domestic animals against rabies and other contagious and potentially life-threatening diseases.

### **6. Crime Prevention**

- 6.1 Support efforts to heighten public awareness about crime prevention, including educating citizens to report suspicious incidents to the police, and establishing neighborhood groups both to prevent crime and as a method of developing a stronger sense of community.
- 6.2 Support efforts to prevent juvenile crime by identifying youth needs and concerns, and coordinating the development and implementation for services for youth.
- 6.3 Support police Department crime prevention efforts, particularly educational programs in the schools and in the community at large, including an active “Operation identification” program.
- 6.4 Support increased use by the Concord district court of restitution and alternative sentencing, including the community service work program in Concord.
- 6.5 Support effective methods of identifying and publicizing the costs of vandalism to Town property.

- 6.6 Support effective methods of supervising heavily used Town conservation land. (Adopted December 1980, reaffirmed 1999)

## **7. Tourism Concord**

In order to provide a pleasant experience in Concord for visitors to the revolutionary and literary sites and to maintain and improve the quality of life for residents in Concord, the League

- 7.1 Supports visitors' services with adequate public parking and toilet facilities located in the vicinity of the Milldam and at the West Concord shopping district. (Revised 2001)
- 7.2 Supports improved directional signs. Mini- informational maps of the vandal-proof roadside type are especially needed.
- 7.3 Supports public or private groups publishing maps or tapes which will direct visitors taking walking or biking tours of the Town. (Reaffirmed 1999)

## **8. Hanscom Field**

- 8.1 Oppose extension of Hanscom field into a major airport
- 8.2 Support maintenance of general aviation activity at Hanscom Field at no higher than the 1973 level.
- 8.3 Support the participation of Concord and other Towns in the solution to problems associated with Hanscom Field

## **9. Long Range Planning**

- 9.1 Support of local and regional long-range planning. Cooperation in the development of comprehensive planning criteria for the towns. (Reaffirmed 1999)

## **10. Town Facilities**

- 10.1 Support for the re-use of surplus buildings: (a) consistent with the character of the neighborhood; (b) consistent with the current zoning; and (c) consistent with the preservation of architectural features.
- 10.2 Support for the reuse of surplus buildings which: (a) use private funding whenever possible; (b) satisfy a need within the community; (c) are sound economic investments for the community; and (d) which are planned to be self-supporting when possible.
- 10.3 Support for rehabilitation of Stow Street surplus buildings for: (a) elderly housing; (b) low income and family housing; (c) recreation; and (d) education.
- 10.4 Oppose extensive retail or commercial development on Stow Street. (Reaffirmed May 1999)

## **11. Housing, Concord**

- 11.1 Support housing at all income levels in Concord. In particular, there should be a supply of low and moderate income housing in Concord to ensure inclusion of the elderly, those on fixed incomes, young people, families, disabled/handicapped persons, teachers, and town employees.
- 11.2 Support the following criteria to support implementation: (a) sound planning should be the basis of such development; (b) private and public efforts to provide such housing should be encouraged, especially if they provide economic mix within neighborhoods [~~rather than a "ghetto" development~~]; (c) low rise, low density, multi-family dwellings would fulfill the Town's need and would be most in keeping with the desire to preserve the "open land" character of Concord. (Revised and reaffirmed 1999, modified 2007)

## **Housing, Carlisle**

- 11.3 Support mixed income housing (low, moderate, and fair market) in Carlisle with priority to housing needs for the elderly. We recommend that consideration be given to rehabilitation and/or conversion of existing buildings and new construction of housing units that will be in

keeping with the rural character of Carlisle. We further recommend the use of rent subsidies and tax abatements where applicable. (Adopted 1978, reaffirmed 1999)

## 12. Growth

- 12.1 Support development of a land use plan in Concord that 1) has land capacity as a key component, 2) defines specific principles and policies, and 3) utilizes appropriate data maps.
- 12.2 Support positive action towards the achievement of Concord town planning goals in the conversion of any municipal buildings.
- 12.3 Support the regular updating of the Concord accessory apartment conversion bylaw **as a means to provide housing alternatives within existing housing stock.** (Modified and affirmed 1999, modified 2007)
- 12.4 Support strengthening Concord flood plain and wet land by laws (adopted March 1981, reaffirmed 1999) MOVE TO WETLANDS SEC. 17.3

## 13. Land Acquisition and Management, Concord

- 13.1 Support Town acquisition of land for
  - a. **affordable housing, including** subsidized housing
  - b. municipal use
  - c. stewardship of our historic and literary past
  - d. recreation-active and passive (conservation)Decisions about purchases should be made by weighing acquisitions against an overall plan with attention to balance, location, and possibilities for multiple use. (Modified 2007)
- 13.2 Support land taking by eminent domain **only** as a last resort and when it satisfies the public need and the public good; this could also be useful in clearing title to a property when ownership is unclear. (Modified 2007)
- 13.3 Support the concept of land banking
- 13.4 Support a land transfer tax.
- 13.5 Support the principle of acquiring land with the intention of later leasing or selling parts of it if the intent to do so was made clear at the time of purchase or if the land was found to be surplus to Town needs.  
(Criteria to be considered for Town land acquisition include[s] the ability to be developed, location, linkage, potential uses, preservation, access, public safety and health. Each parcel of land is unique, therefore it is difficult to establish priorities in criteria for purchase, but the ability to be developed may be the most important.) (Adopted 1987, reaffirmed 1999, modified 2007)

## 14. Land Use

- 14.1 Support the protection of wetlands and lands in the flood plain through strong enforcement of legislation regulating wetlands, flood plains, and conservation lands; through such methods as percolation tests and Town acquisition of such Concord lands.
- 14.2 Support acquiring open land in densely populated areas of Concord. Support visibility of land as an important criterion of Town Acquisition.
- 14.3 Support a mix of housing to meet the needs of a variety of age and income levels.
- 14.4 Support strategic land management to achieve: preservation of open space, a diversity of housing types, and land for municipal uses

## 15. Agricultural Land Use

- 15.1 Support preservation of farmland in Concord by the following methods: The Farmland Assessment Act, conservation restrictions, purchase of development rights, land trusts, and tax reform.
- 15.2 Support Concord acquisition of farmland where other methods of preservation could not be used and the alternative would be the likely loss of the land to development.
- 15.3 Support the agricultural use of MCI-Concord agricultural land, and public education on the problems and potentials of farming in Concord (Reaffirmed 1999)

## 16. Environmental Health

### Solid Waste Disposal

- 16.1 Support a solid waste disposal method that is safe and protects the health of the community and the environment; any method must be economically feasible and well managed.
- 16.2 Support improved methods of operation at existing landfill sites.
- 16.3 Support regionalization of solid waste disposal facilities
- 16.4 Support recycling education programs in the schools

### Sanitary Sewage Facilities

- 16.6 Support improvements needed to maintain present systems at their peak performance.
- 16.7 Support first priority for tie-ins for those areas contiguous to the existing collection line, which are in dire need of service. (Reaffirmed 1999)

## 17. Wetlands

- 17.1 Support preservation and/or acquisition of wetlands and related uplands in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River Basin as well as other actions by appropriate federal state and local agencies.
- 17.2 Support the preservation and/or acquisition of the wetlands and related uplands in the Shawsheen River basin in Concord (Elm Brook). (Reaffirmed 1999)
- 17.3 **Support strengthening Concord flood plain and wetland bylaws.** (MOVED FROM 12.4)

## 18. SUASCO River Basin

The SuAsCo River Basin Group represents nine Leagues in the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord River Basin. The SuAsCo River Basin Group allows the Leagues to approach water resource problems on a regional basis.

- 18.1 Support (a) comprehensive long range planning and coordinated action for use of water and related land resources in the SuAsCo Basin (b) measures to protect and maintain water supply, flood control, fish and wildlife, state and local agencies to accomplish the above; (c) adequate funding for federal, state and local agencies to accomplish the above; (d) federal, state, and local action to achieve flood plain zoning, stream encroachment planning, conservation easements, and the improvements of river flows.
- 18.2 Oppose high power transmission lines running overhead through areas zoned for residence. (Reaffirmed 1999)

*LWVCC Program Reaffirmed at 2006 Annual Meeting*

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

**Nancy Beeuwkes, Christy Barbee, Barbara Lewis, Janet Rothrock, Susan Sekuler**

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The Nomination Committee is pleased to present to the Annual Meeting the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters for Concord Carlisle for 2007-2008.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Lauren Bakewell, Nancy Beeuwkes, Barbara Lewis,  
Shawna Reid, Tish Richardson

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS WITH PORTFOLIO:

Lauren Bakewell	Treasurer
Nancy Beeuwkes	Co-Chair
Nancy Cronin	State/Fiscal Policy Consensus
Louise Haldeman	Observer Corps
Anne Hayden	Bulletin
Barbara Lewis	Membership
Erica Morrison	Hospitality
Cindy Nock	Carlisle Affairs
Shawna Reid	Co-Chair, CCTV Liaison
Tish Richardson	Communications
Betsy Sluder	Environment
Paula Vandever	Health

## DIRECTORS AT-LARGE:

Barbara Anthony  
Christy Barbee  
Nancy Beecher  
Evin Phillips  
Susan Sekuler

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## OFF BOARD ADVISORS:

Di Clymer	Fundraising
Sue Curtin	Education Specialist
Nancy James	Domestic Violence/Rachel's Box
Toby Kramer	Affordable Housing
Gerry Lauderdale	Warrant Information, Concord
Virginia McIntyre	Town Affairs, Concord
Fran Neville	Auditor
Erin Pastuszanski	Candidate Forum for Congressional Rep
Sara Rolley	Carlisle Voters Service
Becky Shannon	Concord School Committee Liaison
Judith Sprott	Wastewater Planning
Marian Thornton	Open Space/Concord Land Conservation Trust