

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org

March 2018

P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034

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CALENDAR

MARCH

- 18 Sun LWVCC Concord “Candidating” Forum, CCHS Learning Commons 1:00-3:00pm
- 18 Sun LWVCC Strategic Planning Event, CCHS Learning Commons 3:00-4:30pm
- 20 Tues LWVCC Concord Town Government Committee, Concord Library 3:00-5:00pm
- 22 Thurs LWVCC Immigration Committee, Fowler Branch Library, West Concord 2:30pm
- 23 Fri Congressional “Candidating” Forum, Robbins Building, Carlisle 7:00-9:00pm
- 27 Tues Concord Town Election Polls open 7am-8pm
- 29 Thurs LWVCC Book Group Meeting, Concord Main Library 7:00-8:30pm

APRIL

- 3 Tues LWVCC “Mapping the Road to Town Meeting: Warrant Review” 7:30-9pm
With Carmin Reiss, Harvey Wheeler Center, Main Street, West Concord
- 4 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting 342 Sudbury Rd. (Anne Hayden) 9:15 coffee; 9:30 mtg
- 5 Thurs Congressional “Candidating” Forum, Robbins Building, Carlisle 7:00-9:00pm
- 6 Fri LWVCC First Friday: Umbrella Community Arts Center 9:15-11:00am
- 7 Sat LWVCC HOUSE TOUR, ticket pick-up 10:00am-3:00pm
- 9-12 M-Th Concord Annual Town Meeting, CCHS gym 7:00pm
- 12 Thurs Congressional “Candidating” Forum, Robbins Building, Carlisle 7:00-9:00pm
- 22 Sun LWVCC Carlisle Candidates Forum, Town Hall 3:00-5:00pm
- 28 Sat LWVMA program: BEYOND THE MARCH, Clark University, Worcester 9am-3pm
- 30 Mon Carlisle Annual Town Meeting

MAY

- 2 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting 9:15 coffee, 9:30 mtg
- 4 Fri LWVCC First Friday: Concord Long Range Planning Committee 9:15-11:00am
- 8 Tues Carlisle Town Election, Town Hall 7:00am-8:00pm
- 23 Wed LWVCC Annual Meeting, Place TBA

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.
Please contact Diane if you would like to attend any of them.*

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

President	Diane Proctor	(978) 369-6232	President@lwvcc.org
Membership	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	Membership@lwvcc.org
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526	BULLETIN@lwvcc.org
Webmaster	Cynthia Rainey	(978) 318-9242	wm@lwvcc.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Members:

In a forum on solutions to strengthen our civic foundations to be held by the LWVMA on April 28th in Worcester (flyer insert), there is an unequivocal call for ideas and action. What does this call mean for us, and how can we respond?

The wonderful thing about the LWVCC is that there are myriad ways to “act.” Participation in League programs—from **attending** events like “**Mapping The Road to Town Meeting**” [which will end the series on April 3rd at Harvey Wheeler] to hearing Wendy Sherman speak; **registering** students and Concordians at Back-to-School evenings, as the students support their fellow students in Parkland, Florida; **observing** key Town committees and following their deliberations; **participating** in League committee meetings like the Town Government meetings and the Immigration discussions; and **reading** the League column that appears in the *Concord Journal*, the articles in the Bulletin, or the books the Book Group has enjoyed.

While many of the events have already occurred or shall happen shortly, they are emblematic of what a busy, vital League can manage when focused and determined, and there are many opportunities to join in the action over the weeks ahead.

Our National League, LWVUS, has been acting vigorously on behalf of voters' rights. It has joined forces with the ACLU to challenge and block Kris Kobach's—Kansas' Secretary of State and President Trump's Head of the Voter Fraud Committee—efforts to suppress voting, by excluding one in seven (1 in 7) new registrants on “technicalities.” The League's suit asserts that the stringent requirements of the “Kansas Secure and Fair Elections Act”—which requires voters to show specifically designated proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or passport, in order to register to vote—violates the 1993 National Voter Registration Act, which says states may only require the “minimum amount of information necessary” to assess whether a person is eligible to vote. If Kobach wins, he plans to carry his victory to other states in an effort to suppress other legitimate voters. Kobach is, indeed, the very person who claimed that “a million aliens voted in 2016,” a claim that led to President Trump's declarations about illegal voting. Astonishing!

Our dues support these endeavors—local, state, and national—but a significant (90%+) portion goes to the State and National Leagues to undertake the sort of action—like the ones mentioned in this letter—we cannot manage on a local level. For that reason, on April 7th from 10-3, we have a key Fundraising event that we hope will yield enough money to carry us for several robust years to come. Nancy Beeuwkes and her active committee have organized a spectacular **House Tour: “Beyond Expectations—Designs Inspired by Life's Passions and Changes.”** Please support their work and encourage neighbors and friends to join in the great adventure.

A brief glimpse at MMN readily reveals how very busy we have been this winter. I hope you each find these efforts invigorating and inspiring. Thank you for your many remarkable commitments and contributions.

Respectfully,

Diane Proctor
LWVCC President

**BEYOND EXPECTATIONS:
Designs Inspired by Life's Passions and
Changes**

On Saturday, April 7th, from 10 am – 3 pm, the League is sponsoring a spectacular House Tour. You can see inside seven houses whose owners have reimagined them to fit their needs and dreams. See how you might do the same.

Register online with PayPal at www.lwvcc.org or mail a check to: LWVCC House Tour, PO Box 34, Concord, MA 01742 (please include check, name and email). Connect early to pay only \$35, while tickets the day of the Tour are \$45. The proceeds of this unique event help to support the ongoing activities of our local league. If you would like to volunteer to help on the day of the tour, contact Barbara Lewis at blglewis@comcast.net.

*Nancy Beeuwkes, Barbara Lewis, Dee Ortnier
House Tour co-chairs*

**APRIL FIRST FRIDAY:
UMBRELLA COMMUNITY ARTS
CENTER**

On April 6, 2018, Jerry Wedge, Executive Director of the Umbrella Community Arts Center, will join us in a First Friday discussion of the Umbrella's \$20 million dollar renovation plans. Designed to enhance artistic thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, we will also have a chance to learn from Jerry about future programming. The program will be at Fowler Branch Library from 9:15-11:00 AM and is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

**MEET CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR
CONCORD'S LOCAL OFFICES
MARCH 18, 2018
1:00 - 3:00 PM**

CCHS LEARNING COMMONS FOYER

The League invites the public to a "Candidating" event to meet the candidates running for local office on Sunday, March 18, 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Learning Commons Foyer at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, 500 Walden Street, Concord.

"Candidating" is a blend of a forum and a "meet and greet," using the techniques of speed dating. It allows many voters to have meaningful discourse with the candidates in one setting, in a small group environment.

All the candidates running for Select Board, School Committee, Housing Authority, and Town Moderator have been invited. Be informed and ready to vote on March 27! Remember, "Democracy is not a Spectator Sport."

*Judy Zaumbrecher,
Concord Voter Service Chair*

**STRATEGIC PLANNING EVENT
FOR CPS & CCHS**

MARCH 18, 2018 3:00-4:30 PM

CCHS LEARNING COMMONS FOYER

There will be an opportunity to have your voice clearly heard on the future shape of our public schools. Echoing the new Superintendent, Laurie Hunter's, School's Strategic Planning Committee's initial meeting, there will be a LWVCC sponsored Strategic Planning Event, from 3:00-4:30 in the same Learning Commons Foyer. Would you like more opportunities for learning languages—like Chinese or Russian; more AP courses or fewer; more technology or less; more courses in the arts or hands-on scientific research? Come and imagine the future.

LEAGUE PROGRAM LEADS TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN TOWN MEETING

With the Concord Town Meeting rapidly approaching, we come to the conclusion of an eight-month program that has encouraged and educated citizen legislators. The “**Mapping the Road to Town Meeting**” forums began with a vigorous and fascinating discussion by Concord’s and Carlisle’s present Town Moderators and two past Concord Moderators, in September. It will conclude with: “**Warrant Review With The Town Moderator.**” This event—to be held at Harvey Wheeler Community Center on Tuesday, April 3rd, from 7:30-9:00—will provide citizens with an opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with Carmin Reiss, Concord’s Town Moderator. Invariably a thoughtful person, please join us.

A primer on “**How to draft a Warrant Article,**” in November, followed the League’s opening gathering at Trinity Church and taught many attendees the subtleties and expectations of this process. Participants often thought we knew how to write a petition article—we did not!

That forum was followed by a January program - “**How it Works and How to Work It,**” which taught us how to move an article through various committees and refine its language. In each of these presentations, Mike Lawson (Concord Select Board), Anita Tekle (Concord’s former Town Clerk and a LWVCC Member), and Kaari Mai Tari (Concord’s present Town Clerk) provided the audience with rich, informative guidance.

Each program has been recorded by CCTV and will be available for future petitioners in the Town Libraries (along with the handouts presented)—for years to come. I am especially grateful to the good work of Stephan Bader, Mary Clarke, Ingrid Detweiller, Ruth Lauer, Kerry Cronin, Anita Tekle, Kaari Mai Tari, and Mike Lawson who worked diligently on this committee. Collaborating with the Town Libraries and the Town Government assured a robust attendance and an informed forum.

*Diane Proctor
LWVCC President*

**MAPPING THE ROAD TO TOWN MEETING: WARRANT REVIEW
APRIL 3, 2018 7:30 PM
HARVEY WHEELER CENTER**

Carmin Reiss, Concord’s Town Moderator, will lead interested citizens in a discussion of the Town Warrant – all in anticipation of the Town Meeting from April 9 – 12th. Her expertise will carry us through an understanding of such complexities as which articles require a 2/3 vote versus a mere majority, why some articles are on the “consent calendar,” how citizens may (or may not) amend articles, and other rules that mark the character and expectations of the meeting. This is a unique opportunity to speak with and learn from our Town Moderator.

**LWVCC BOOK GROUP MEETING
Thursday, March 29, 2018
Concord Main Library
7:00-8:30 PM**

Our March book is OUR KIDS: The American Dream in Crisis by Robert D. Putnam. Central to the idea of America is the principle that we are a nation of opportunity. But over the last quarter century a disturbing “opportunity gap” has emerged. Americans have always believed that those who have talent and try hard will succeed, but this seems no longer to be true for most people.

In this book Putnam tells the tale of lessening opportunity through poignant life stories of rich, middle class and poor kids from cities and suburbs across the country, brilliantly blended with the latest social-science research. This promises to be an illuminating and thoughtful discussion. League members and friends are invited to join in this informative discussion.

*Anne Hayden, Edie Lipinski, Janet Miller &
Diane Proctor, LWVCC Book Group Committee*

CONCORD TOWN MEETING

The articles on pages 5 – 11 provide reports from recent meetings where warrant articles were discussed including the March 2nd First Fridays Warrant Review session; LWVCC Observer Reports from recent School Committee, School Budget Subcommittee, Concord Light Board and Public Works Commission meetings; and a report on 2229 Main Street.

WARRANT REVIEW FIRST FRIDAYS – MARCH 2nd

On Friday, March 2, the League gathered at the Fowler Library to continue its review of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting with an overview of 14 Articles by the Planning Board and several petition articles. League President Diane Proctor and Town Government Committee Chair Ardis Bordman, opened the discussion with remarks about the Warrant review schedule, the need for a 2/3 vote on amendments to the zoning bylaws, and reminders about upcoming League events.

Mark Gailus described Article #20, which urges the Select Board to keep Concord's PEG access services independent from town government. Julie del Sobral explained that Article #40 would expand the cell tower district map to provide more options for locating a tower on Middlesex School property. Scott Richardson played an audio recording of a gas-powered leaf blower to demonstrate one of the several reasons for his Article #46, while Lori Gill-Pazaris focused her Article #23 comments around the need for a comprehensive climate resilience plan to help manage our land and waterways to better prepare for natural disasters. Robert Grom sought the League's support for Article #18, which would allow 17-year-olds to vote in Town elections, Town Meeting, and Town Caucus.

Matt Johnson, Vice-Chair of the Planning Board, covered nine articles. Starting with Article #32, Matt explained the reasons for

extending the current moratorium on recreational marijuana from July 31, 2018, to December 31, 2018, so as to allow the State's Cannabis Control Commission to create appropriate regulations regarding the substance. Article #33 tries to clarify the definition of a "private" living facility, as distinguished from an enclosed non-private area. Article #34 would limit the height of accessory structures built within the rear and side setbacks in all residential districts.

Article #35 drew questions about the environmental consequences of allowing the Zoning Board of Appeals to reduce the open space requirements for business/residence combinations, such as those which might occur in West Concord Center. Articles #36, #37, and #41 were essentially "housekeeping" language in bylaw language to avoid possible confusion about nonconforming structures, real estate agency categorizations, and tree preservation bylaw permits. Finally, Matt Johnson explained that Articles #38 and #39 will add a "sustainability" criterion for developers' site plan reviews and for development projects – educational, religious, and child care – over which the Town Planning Department has restricted jurisdiction.

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle appreciated the efforts each presenter made to help clarify these Warrant Article issues.

2018 Concord Warrant Article Highlight: #28 – What’s Happening at 2229 Main Street, Concord?

In 2004, the Town of Concord formed the 2229 Main Street Oversight Committee (“2229 Committee”) to monitor the process leading to the cleanup of a 46-acre Superfund hazardous waste site known as Starmet, formerly owned by Nuclear Metals, Inc. (“NMI”), and located at 2229 Main Street (Route 62), Concord.



The 2229 Committee has submitted Warrant Article #28 for the 2018 Town Meeting. Article 28 provides background on the site, notes that the Select Board was authorized in 2015 to take ownership of the site, and describes the 2015 Record of Decision that was published by the Environmental Protection Agency. This Record includes the EPA’s remediation plan. Since 2015, substantial clean-up of the property has occurred. Article 28 asks the Town to appropriate \$25,000 for a redevelopment plan which will maximize the reusability of the site.

Background

The site was used by NMI, a defense contractor, to develop and research specialized metals, including depleted uranium and beryllium, until the site was abandoned in 2011, leaving behind site contaminants including depleted uranium, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), chlorinated solvents, and 1,4-dioxane. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) has concluded a 15-year effort to characterize the risk and select a remediation strategy for 2229 Main Street in Concord. The 2229 Committee meets regularly with the EPA and Town officials to review site remediation efforts. The 2229 Committee consists of seven members: five chosen by the Select Board, one by the Board of Health, and one by the Natural Resources Committee.

In 2015, Concord Town Meeting passed an article that authorized the Select Board to acquire the property at 2229 Main Street once the EPA publishes a Record of Decision that specifies that the site be remediated to a level that is safe for residential uses. The EPA published its Record of Decision on September 30, 2015 and specifies a remediation goal that is consistent with residential uses.

Need for a Redevelopment Plan

The 2229 Committee has asked the Select Board to authorize creation of a redevelopment plan. As reasons for the need for a redevelopment plan, the 2229 Committee said, in its comments to the Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee:

“This site has great potential for Concord, but a lot depends on the remediation happening fast. The current plan is that contaminated soils will be shipped to a proper mixed waste disposal area and not buried at the site. But given the political atmosphere right now, there is concern that the plan might change. If this site becomes a hazardous waste landfill, it could dramatically impact the property values in West Concord and affect the reputation of the community. If Concord takes too long to take possession of this site, our Town risks that another potential owner could come forward, who might want to use this site as a radioactive waste transfer or disposal site. EPA might simply take so long to get this site cleaned up that the property remains contaminated for our lifetimes, at the bottom of a list cleanups that EPA will never get around to.”

The 2229 Committee urged the Select Board to develop a reuse plan for the site as soon as possible because the site borders many residences and businesses, including Cranberry Lane, Maplewood Circle, Hayward Mill Road, Border Road, Black Birch Road, the Thoreau Club, and Minuteman Arc. The Committee also asserted that the site can be used for a wide variety of municipal and residential purposes as it has walking trails and is currently zoned for light industrial and limited residential use. The 2229 Committee contended that the 46-acre parcel could also be used for outdoor recreation and recreation buildings; assisted living facility, nursing home, group home, or a retirement community; indoor exercise space; conservation and wetland education; transportation hub; truck/bus parking and maintenance; solar energy production; dog-friendly trails and dog park, and other mixed land-use purposes.

Citizen Concerns

Support for the Town’s acquisition of the tract by eminent domain is not universal. In a recent editorial in the Concord Journal, one resident expressed concern about the future of the Superfund site and the Town’s responsibility of unknown risks if it assumes ownership. Several members of the Select Board have expressed their public reservations about acquiring the tract. Still, the 2229 Committee stressed the need for the redevelopment plan to speed up the clean up process. “However, if the Town is too slow to get redevelopment plans in order,” wrote the 2229 Committee in its Long Range Comments, “the EPA could theoretically decide to landfill contaminated soils and hazardous waste at the site, instead of shipping the removable waste off the site. This could dramatically reduce the usable space at the site, and potentially impact the town in a number of ways including reputational impacts on the Town and of West Concord, in particular leading to possible reduction in property values in the area’s residential neighborhoods.”

Warrant Article for Town Meeting Consideration

The decision on how to speed the site remediation by funding a redevelopment plan has been placed squarely on the shoulders of Concord voters, who will review the proposed article at Town Meeting starting April 9, 2018. Be sure to read the upcoming reviews of this, and the other Warrant and Petition articles, their handouts, presentations, and draft motions. Be an informed voter and make your own decision.

Karlen Reed and Judy Zaunbrecher

LWVCC OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS

Concord Light Board

Meeting: Concord Light Board (Board), Feb. 14, 2018, 7:30 a.m., Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP), 1175 Elm Street, Concord.

Attachments: Agenda

Reporter: Karlen Reed;

Date of Report: Feb. 15, 2018

Present: Board members Lynn Salinger (Chair), Peggy Briggs, Wendy Rovelli, and Dan Gainsboro. Member Gordon Brockway participated by phone (a quorum was physically present).

Also present: CMLP Director David Wood, staff, SB Members Mike Lawson and Alice Kaufman, CIO Mark Howell, Sustainability Director Kate Hanley, CSEC members, LWVCC observer, and the public. Started on time, name cards visible, voices are audible. Minutes approved (5-0) for Dec. 2017 and Jan. 10, 2018 meetings.

Topics Discussed:

Calendar: The Board will present its Strategic Plan to the Select Board, date TBD. The Board will also hold another community outreach session, date TBD.

Director's update: Director Wood noted the installation of security cameras at several CMLP locations that connect with the Concord Police Department. CMLP will sign a contract for an in-town large scale solar array with controlled storage. SD Hanley is creating a baseline inventory of Town greenhouse gas emissions. CMLP is working with the Public Works Dept. on the 2-year renovation of Cambridge Turnpike and will be undergrounding the electric and fiber lines. Concord now has 310 residential solar arrays, generating 3.1 megawatts capacity, as of Dec. 2017.

2018 Budget: Board members approved the 2018 CMLP Budget (5-0) after discussing several items. CMLP has \$8.8M in unrestricted cash (Sept. 2017), but has no formal policy of how much it should hold (unlike the Town's 10% policy or the CCRSD's 5% policy). One

Member suggested CMLP should retain a quarter's amount of expenses, which is about \$6M, and the rest should be used for capital investments or reduced rates, since this is an enterprise fund. The Board will look into establishing a cash reserve guideline in the future. The \$3M budget for smart meters has not yet been spent; that project will occur in 2019, after the new billing platform is installed. The 2018 budget is based on current rates.

Rates: Wood presented the CMLP consultant's proposed meter charge rate increase, which would rise from the current \$9/month for residential and small business (G-1) customers, to \$12.16 in 2018, \$16.43 in 2019, \$22.20 in 2020, and \$30.00 in 2021 to cover more of the fixed costs of CMLP operations, rather than rely on the usage-based, per kilowatt rates.

Board members wanted more impact graphs and expressed concerns about customer sticker shock. They pondered eliminating the current tiered rate structure to incentivize the use of electric vehicles and heat pumps (which would raise the basic tier rate by \$.02/kWh).

Citizens presented a range of options for Board consideration, including an offset to the 160 CMLP residential assistance customers to keep the effective meter charge rate at \$9/month, and limiting monthly residential rates increases to no more than \$3. One citizen suggested the meter charge rate should be increased to \$77/month to cover all fixed costs.

Telecommunications: CIO Howell said that over 1000 customers now take the Town's broadband services, sending about 15 terabytes of data per day. CMLP has 3 upstream ISPs to carry this traffic and introduced the new network engineer, who also works in Bedford. In 2017, the Town broadband generated \$750K revenues, \$664K operating expenses, and is paying down its debt.

Forward Capacity Auction: CMLP is in FCA Auction #8, which sets the kilowatt cost of electricity for CMLP and customers. Costs are

expected to go up in 2019, then down through 2022.

Public comments: Comments were made on smart meters, payments in lieu of taxes, greenhouse gas inventory, REC surcharges, and free cash benchmarks.

Additional information:

The public meeting was recorded and adjourned at 9:40 a.m. Next meetings are March 14 and April 11, 7:30 a.m. CMLP website: <http://www.concordma.gov/464/Municipal-Light-Plant>. Light Board web page: <http://www.concordma.gov/1106/Municipal-Light-Board>

Public Works Commission

Meeting: Public Works Commission (Commission), Feb. 21, 2018, 7:15 p.m., Concord Public Works (CPW), 141 Keyes Road, Concord.

Attachment: Agenda

Reporter: Karlen Reed

Date of Report: Feb. 23, 2018

Present: Commission members Andrew Boardman (Chair), Pete Wallis, Arthur Fulman, and K. C. Winslow, so a quorum was present. Also present: CPW Director Richard Reine, staff Anna Trout and Rod Robison, SB Alice Kaufman, FinCom Richard Jamison, LWVCC observer. Name placards in place; audible. Started 7:15 p.m., ended 9:00 p.m. Jan. 10, 2018 minutes approved (4-0).

Topics Discussed:

Calendar review: Director Reine and Commission reviewed the upcoming calendar re: Town Meeting warrant articles, enterprise budgets and a briefing on the Long Range Plan.

Solid Waste & Recycling Program Public Rate

Hearing: The Commission voted to open the solid waste rate hearing (4-0). Rod Robison, CPW's Environmental Services Program Administrator, presented the Commission with a slide deck and memo describing the Town's

solid waste program. Robison and Reine explained the proposed rate increases for FY 2019 are due to curbside contract cost increases by Waste Management, who handles the solid waste and recycling program for the Town, plus some additional administrative costs. The rate increases for FY 2019 are: \$8/year for trash and recycling subscription (from \$254 to \$262) and \$5/year for recycling only subscription (from \$128 to \$133). After receiving questions from the Commission and the public, the Commission approved the solid waste and recycling rate increases (4-0), which begin April 1, 2018.

Director's report: Reine highlighted the status of the Cambridge Turnpike reconstruction project, Phase 1 which includes Section 1 (Lexington Road to Mill Brook Farm) and Section 3 (Hawthorne Lane to Sandy Pond Road). This project includes replacing the gas main in mid-March. Reine also fielded questions about Concord's upcoming Water Management Act Permitting process for the Concord Basin permits, which will be reviewed by the MA DEP. The Town of Norwell recently completed this review process, and Reine provided an overview of Norwell's permit requirements, many of which concerned release of water for fish production, rather than for drinking supply.

Commission and Public Comments: Comments were expressed about Nagog Pond, winter response to snow, heavy equipment repairs, and Town pump well repairs.

Next PWC meetings are Mar. 14 and April 18, 7:15 p.m.

CPW website:

<http://www.concordma.gov/157/Public-Works>.

Public Works Commission website:

<http://www.concordma.gov/529/Public-Works-Commission>.

CPS & CCRSD

Joint School Committee Meeting

February 27, 2018

5:30 PM / Call to Order

Reporter: Edie Lipinski

Public Comments

Edie Lipinski asked the SC to clarify what money has been spent so far on the STEAM lab at Ripley and what the \$230,000 line item in Article 11 would fund. Mr. Flaherty answered that bids were out for the first \$300,000 that would cover heating and infrastructure. The requested amount this year would be spent on window glazing.

Reading of the Minutes

A. Open Session

Jt. Meeting – 1/23/18

Chairs & Liaisons

- Coffee schedules are finalized and will be sent to PTG and LWVCC and the papers. SC members will be available to answer questions about the budget.
- Dan and Heather will attend LWVCC mtg.
- Campus Advisory Committee: They have 8 or 9 formal responses from the general public re: comments and suggestions for High School campus use. Many other informal suggestions have been received. The CAC report in May.

Reports for Discussion

FY19 Budget: will present later tonight at Finance Committee Meeting

Athletic Fees:

Dr. Hunter presented a report showing costs for the athletic department. Suggestion is to raise fees by \$100 / with a family cap of \$1200. Total athletic budget is \$574,000 total. \$115,000 from revolving account to keep up with the cost. \$280,500 income includes athletic user fees (\$234,000)

Question about cost of transportation:

Transportation is inhouse, do we save compared to districts that outsource buses? Mr. Flaherty responded that we often outsource for some athletic events, because we do not have enough buses to cover all events. We have a mix of inhouse and outsourced transportation.

Venue rental is also a cost.

Ms. Storrs asked about the ski team: the \$400 ski pass is extra. What do other towns do?

Ms. Bout asked about funding for families who cannot afford cost increase. Dr. Hunter said would follow the free/reduced lunch process.

Mr. Johnston asked if some percentage of the fee increase could be allocated to athletics specifically. At each school?

Dr. Hunter stated that going forward we can look at the athletic budget for more efficiencies and find ways to reduce the cost.

Warrant Article 13

High School Warrant article: \$1,000,000 Five year plan: Repairs \$90,000. Paving and lighting \$500,000 / \$250,000

Parking is an urgent issue. Ask for money for design and plan. There were 80 to 100 spaces in original plan of High School. The SC decided to let the issue play out and deal with it later. Can we do gravel section just outside café? We need NRC and costs?

Flaherty: authorizing borrowing is OK because you don't have to spend it all.

Ms. Bout: can we deal with the parking issue as a separate issue and not ask for the whole \$1M?

Mr. Johnston: seek solutions from Dr. Hunter and Mr. Mastrullo? or from Campus Advisory Committee? Or just stay at the level we have?

Mr. Conti: keep articles as they are and let town have their say at Town Meeting?

Dr. Hunter predicts the need for a parking spot for every senior and some for juniors. The Beede Center offered 23 spots, but currently this plan is being abused by unauthorized parking.

Ms. Storrs: some people in town might not support the idea. What happened to carpooling?

School safety:

New information: Security practices are always being reviewed. The side doors to mods at Sanborn are now locked. Open campus at CCHS allowing kids to come and go will be reviewed. 'Alice' training is in place and continues with staff. Middle school is retraining staff. At CCHS 'Alice' includes full drills of practice scenarios. Offers experience in other cases.

March 14th the plan for seventeen minutes of walkout. HS and middle school are on board and Dr. Hunter and principals are working hard to

design and manage the protest for maximum success. Staff will be on neutral ground politically. Parents will be informed about the procedure before rolling it out to the kids. CCHS Facebook: protest Congress' lack of action on gun violence. Boston Walk on 24th.

New Business

First Reading–School Committee Policies tabled until next meeting

- File IGD – Curriculum Adoption
- File IJ – Instructional Materials
- File IJ-R – Reconsideration of Instructional Resources
- File IJL – Library Materials Selection
- File IJLA – Library Resources
- File IMG – Animals in School
- File JH – Student Absences and Excuses

Action Items

A. Vote to approve two CCHS Field Trips:

Approved

Davos Global Leadership Summit, Davos Switzerland, Rome, Sorrento, Italy. CEF for revolving fund to help kids who cannot pay?

B. Gift Acceptance: Dahong & Shan Li Fund & Alliance Energy LLC and Lifetouch

- Dahong & Shan Li Fund - \$2,500
- Alliance Energy LLC - \$500
- Lifetouch - \$1,787.30

Approved

Adjournment

The Concord-Carlisle School Committee will remain in open session during the Concord Finance Committee's Public Hearing beginning at 7:00 PM

SC Budget Subcommittee

Reporter: Peggy Wargelin

Date of Meeting Reported On: 3/2/18

Link to agenda is:

<http://www.concordps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Budget-Sub.-Agenda-3.2.18.pdf>

Wally chaired the meeting. Minutes for the 2/9/18 meeting were approved.

General Discussion - Reaction to proposed fee increases for sports was discussed. Fees have been the same for years; perhaps should be adjusted annually so not such a large jump all at once? Many towns use fees to keep the tax burden lower, but having good school programs available to all, regardless of income, combats income inequality. Perhaps offer "mini-muni" bonds, as Cambridge successfully does, so people can give to schools in a tax-free way. Need an open discussion about fees for extra-curricular activities.

How can we track student success after seniors graduate? The district no longer has a way to contact people - email addresses change, etc. More thought needs to be put into this.

Many on-line rankings using data algorithms can automatically scrub from any database they can find to drive traffic to their (often real estate) web site, so are incorrect and misleading. Perhaps it would be worth it to reply to incorrect ones with real info, or at least to be aware of them so SC and school administration can respond if there are questions.

Tech - As with other DESE data, the numbers in this category are all over the map, so don't provide good benchmarks for actual technology spending.

Summary - Unfortunately, the rough draft was not completed before this meeting.

To cover:

- How we chose cohort
- Paragraph about rankings and how they don't tell a real story, just about what their algorithm was. AP classes and rankings.
- After a lot of work, found DESE data on schools is as good as it gets. We rolled together categories in an intelligent way to handle variations in what goes into each "bucket" of expenses in each district, and we have a way to intelligently combine data for regional districts so we can compare them to data from the single towns.

The hope is to get a draft completed and commented on before the next meeting.

LWVCC Immigration Committee Report

The LWVCC has formed an Immigration Committee that is in the process of educating members regarding immigration legislation and actions being taken locally in connection with immigrant assistance, and the sanctuary movement. We want to share what we are learning and encourage members to join with us in this exploration. That is why we are publishing this report in the Bulletin. In January we reported on our first committee meeting where we heard from a LWVCC member who is working with two organizations that support asylum seekers and children in need of defense.

LWVUS Immigration Positions

Our second meeting was with Karen Price, the LWVMA immigration specialist. Karen was a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia who knows many student immigrants from that country. She summarized the LWVUS position on immigration based on the 2005 National Study. The National League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship. It opposes deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants, and it has lobbied in support of the DREAM Act.

LWVMA and Mass Sanctuary Cities Act

Karen described the recent Massachusetts State Supreme Judicial Court ruling, the Lunn decision, which provides that local law enforcement officials do not have authority to detain a person based solely on a request from federal immigration authorities.

A bill called the Sanctuary Cities Act filed by Senator Jamie Eldridge and supported by Sen. Mike Barrett and Rep. Cory Atkins would prohibit local police from arresting people solely because of their immigration status and prohibit them from working as deputized ICE agents. That bill was pending last year in the Legislature but was not taken up for a vote. It has been refiled with some changes this year.

Concord's Welcoming Community resolution which was passed by the 2017 Town Meeting

has the same purpose as this legislation. The LWVUS has publicly stated its support for communities and states that pass such legislation.

Immigration Questions for Candidates

Karen suggested that the LWVCC develop a list of questions to ask candidates running for Niki Tsongas' and Cory Atkins' seats about their positions on immigration issues.

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

The speaker at our third meeting was LWVCC member Laurie Van Loon who served in the Peace Corps in Latin America. She has taught Spanish speaking students, and she is a clinical social worker working with many Hispanic clients. Laurie spent a week at the Karnes Detention Center for women and children near San Antonio where most of the detainees are asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers differ from refugees in that refugees come from countries labeled dangerous by the U.N. Refugees apply from outside the U.S., and if status is granted they may enter the country and will get help. Asylum seekers are identified and are detained at the border or after they enter the U.S. An asylum seeker must apply legally for asylum within one year of arrival. Currently, the wait for getting an asylum application heard is 4-6-years. Some people come into the U.S. legally on visas and then request asylum because conditions have changed in their home countries or because they were in danger there but were able to enter legally through other routes first.

In their hearing, asylum seekers must prove that they have no criminal record and they must show grounds for asylum by proving they have been persecuted for religion, race, nationality, political views, or membership in a particular group. In some cases, a mental health evaluation may be conducted. Information may be required to demonstrate ongoing danger if the asylum seeker is returned to their home country. Gays

from Nigeria and Uganda may face reparative rape or being doused and burned in the street.

Those who present at the border, after being interviewed, and before arriving at detention centers are often put in an “ice box,” a cement building with high windows, lights on 24/7, and temperature at 55 degrees and are encouraged to agree to deportation. Or they may be placed in the “dog run,” an outdoor space with a high fence. The Karnes center, like other detention centers, is run by a for-profit prison company, and it is run like a prison. Volunteers rehearse women for a “credible fear interview” where they must show evidence of the danger they would face on returning to their country. To leave they must pay a bond of \$1,500 or wear a GPS ankle collar. Usually they have arranged for sponsors before leaving home, and they apply for asylum once they reach their sponsors’ location. They are given no social services and are not allowed to work legally until a minimum of six months after filing their asylum application.

Sanctuary Movement in Churches

Laurie also described the Sanctuary Movement of churches providing protected living arrangements for an individual or family seeking asylum or protection from deportation. First Parish in Bedford engaged in a year of congregational education and voted to become a Sanctuary church, creating a small apartment where the congregation now houses someone with no criminal history, who has lived in the U.S. for decades, but has been summoned for deportation. Over 200 volunteers are needed to insure round-the-clock support and vigilance for the person housed there. Volunteers come from many nearby congregations, including First Parish in Concord.

Potential Future Actions

After Laurie spoke, members discussed what our League could do to educate citizens about immigration. One suggestion was to develop an event such as a play that would dramatize the immigrant experience. Another was to have a speaker from one of the organizations that supports immigrants, such as the International

Institute of New England in Lowell that has been serving immigrants since 1919.

For further engagement, Laurie suggested two books, The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border by Francisco Cantu, a former border agent; and Go, Went, Gone by Jenny Erpenbeck – the latter has been selected as a Booker Prize, International selection.

The International Institute of New England presents a series of conversations with immigrants describing their experiences called ‘Suitcase Stories.’ Immigration Committee members will be attending one of this series on Thursday, April 12, at the Cambridge School of Weston. If you are interested in attending, contact Nancy Cronin at nrcronin@verizon.net. (Note: April 12 may be the last night of Town Meeting.)

Nancy Cronin, National Action Chair

MARCH IMMIGRATION MEETING

March 22nd

2:30 pm

Fowler Branch Library

Speaker: Gerry Rovner, Immigration Attorney

A terrific opportunity to get your questions answered regarding current immigration and deportation issues!

International Institute of New England “Suitcase Stories”

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Cambridge School of Weston

On April 12, 2018, members of the Immigration Committee will be attending this “Suitcase Stories” program in Weston. It will include a series of conversations with immigrants who will discuss their experiences during the process of coming to the U.S. as a refugee or asylum seeker.

If you would like to attend this program with the group, contact Nancy Cronin at nrcronin@verizon.net.

**MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR THE THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

“Candidating Forums”

**Place: Carlisle School Community Room
Robbins Building**

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Friday, March 23, 2018

Alexandra Chandler, Dan Koh, Bopha Malone

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Beej Das, Rufus Gifford, Juana Matias, Keith R. St. John,
Lori Trahan

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Leonard Golder, Rick Green Barbara L’Italien,
Patrick Littlefield, Terry Ryan

**These events are free but seating is limited so please register
for each evening you wish to attend at Event Brite or**

<https://tinyurl.com/RSVP-Carlisle>.

**Sponsored by: League of Women Voters Concord-Carlisle, Carlisle
Rising to Action, Carlisle Democratic Town Committee, Carlisle
Republican Town Committee**

16th Annual River Steward Award

The League of Women Voters and the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council are soliciting nominations for the 16th Annual River Steward Award

Do you know someone who is an outstanding advocate for the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers? Is there an inspiring project or creative program that protects the beauty and health of our rivers or is dedicated to building an environmental legacy for future generations?

Twenty-nine miles of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers have been federally designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers because of their outstandingly remarkable resources including ecology, recreation, scenery, history and literature.

As pioneers in conservation, the League of Women Voters in partnership with the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council present the River Steward Awards.

We seek individuals, organizations, youth, teachers, businesses, government employees and others whose work will inspire children, families, town and school leaders to protect and preserve the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers today, and for future generations.

Nominees may live or work in any of the SuAsCo watershed towns: Acton, Ashland, Bedford, Berlin, Billerica, Bolton, Boxborough, Boylston, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Clinton, Concord, Framingham, Grafton, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lincoln, Littleton, Lowell, Marlborough, Maynard, Natick, Northborough, Sherborn, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Upton, Wayland, Westborough, Westford, and Weston.

Award winners are invited to a reception and awards ceremony held on June 15 as part of Riverfest 2018.

Send nominations to Mary Antes, 11 Old Farm Circle, Wayland, MA 01778 by March 30, 2018. Nomination forms are available at the Concord Town House, the Concord Natural Resources Commission office, both Concord libraries, or online at the Concord-Carlisle LWV website www.lwvcc.org. Contact Mary Antes, 508-358-2571 or mantes2@verizon.net with any questions.

*Janet Rothrock, LWV Representative
River Steward Award Committee*

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN OUR TOWNS

CONCORD TOWN MEETING – APRIL 9-12, 2018

CONCORD TOWN ELECTION – MARCH 27, 2018

CARLISLE TOWN MEETING – APRIL 30, 2018

CARLISLE TOWN ELECTION – MAY 8, 2018

League of Women Voters of Concord Carlisle
P.O. Box 34
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