



Town of Wellesley

How Town Government Runs: Your Town Meeting

LWV presentation 12/06/2017

Town Meeting Basics

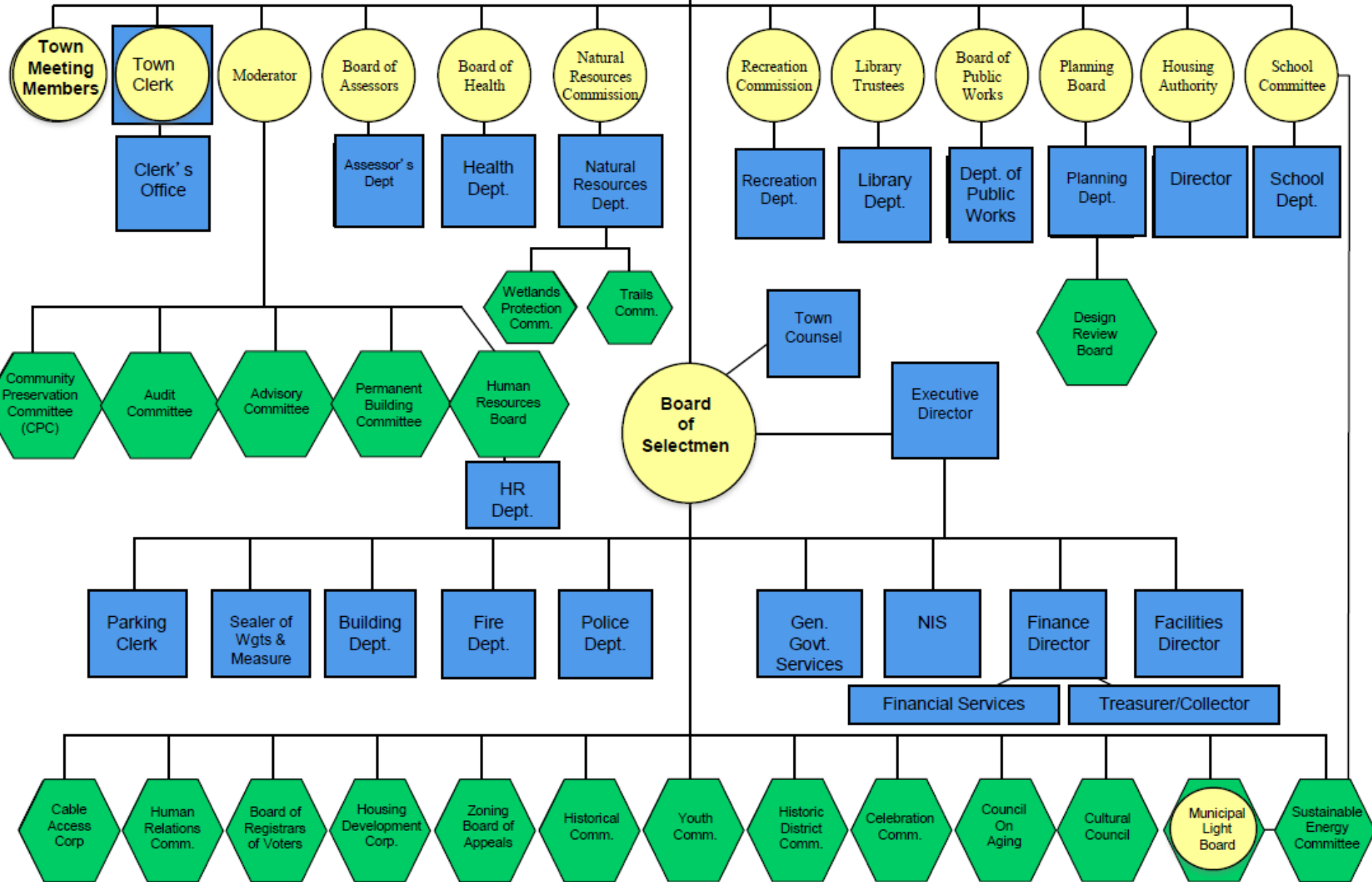
- New England tradition
- Legislative branch of local government
- Annual Town Meeting each spring
 - Also Special Town Meetings as needed
- To consider articles proposed for inclusion on a warrant (the agenda) by elected Boards and by citizen petition
- Open or representative town meetings

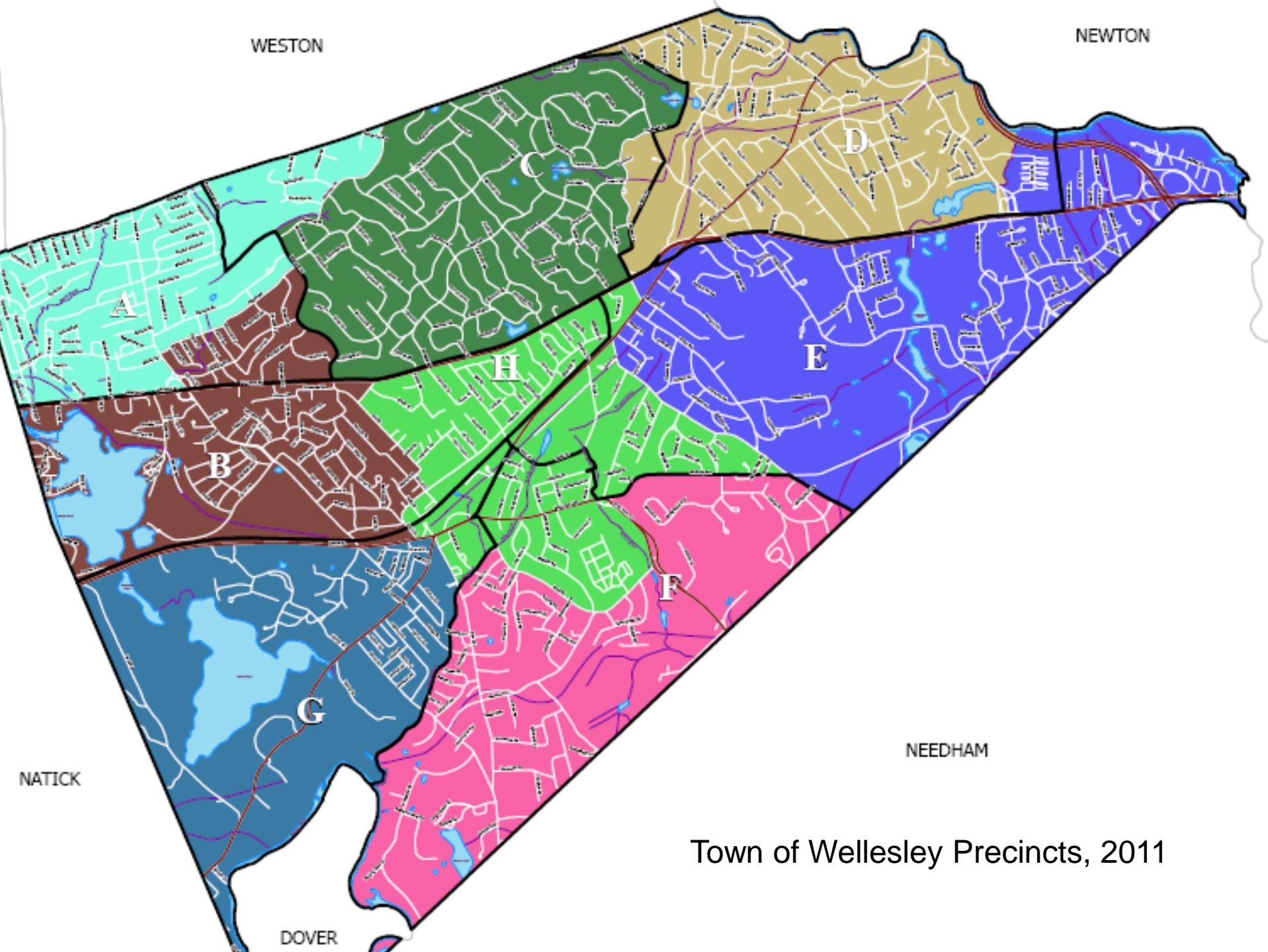


Wellesley Town Government Organization

VOTERS

Elected
Appointed
Town Employee





WESTON

NEWTON

DOVER

NEEDHAM

NATICK

Town of Wellesley Precincts, 2011

What does Town Meeting Do?

- Appropriates town funds
 - Operating budgets
 - Capital budgets
 - Special projects
- Acts on By-law amendments
 - Zoning By-laws
 - Town By-laws
- Acts on labor contracts and pay scales

Advisory Committee

- 15 people appointed by the Moderator
- Works on behalf of town meeting to thoroughly vet all proposals presented at town meeting
- Prepares an extensive report to town meeting with a recommendation (favorable or unfavorable) on each proposal

Town Meeting Procedures

- TMMs sit in front
- Any town resident can speak but only elected TMMs can make a motion or vote
- Lively but civil discussion
- Formal atmosphere but designed to enable participation by all citizens
- Moderator presides and decides questions of order

Communications

- Town website:
www.WellesleyMA.gov/27/government
 - Agendas, minutes, documents, contact info
 - Advisory Report (available about 10 days before the start of town meeting)
- Televised meetings: Wellesley Public Media
 - The Wellesley Channel for BOS, School Committee, Advisory Committee and many other meetings
<http://www.wellesleymedia.org/most-recent-government-meeting-coverage.html>

LWV of Wellesley resources

<https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/wellesley>

Information about Wellesley's Town Meeting, provided by Wellesley's Town Clerk and by a former Town Moderator:

<https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/wellesley/article/useful-information-wellesley-town-meeting>

Candidates' Handbook 2018:

https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/lwvw_candidates_handbook_2018.pdf