

League of Women Voters of Wellesley

Board Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022 | 12:35 P.M. – 2:36 P.M.

Virtual Via Zoom

Attendees: Laura Brown MacKinnon, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Marguerite Chatelier, Irene Flint, Wendy Garber, Erry Johnson, Ann-Mara Lanza, Bonny Nothern, Ann Rappaport, Susan Clapham, Jenny Zannetos. League member Ellie Perkins was present. Ellen Gibbs and Tanya Roy were absent. A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 P.M. by Co-President Laura Brown MacKinnon.

Land Acknowledgement – from Laura Brown MacKinnon, derived from the acknowledgement used by Wellesley College and augmented by a section used by the Toronto Symphony, as suggested by Erry Johnson.

Where we live and work is located on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary unceded lands of the Massachusett tribe. We recognize that we are on stolen land, and we extend our gratitude to the many Indigenous peoples who have rich histories here, including the Massachusett, Wampanoag and Nipmuc nations, for their ongoing stewardship of the land.

This acknowledgment will challenge us to find out for ourselves the history of the ground where our homes are built. By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and commit to holding our community more accountable to the needs of Indigenous peoples

Take a moment to consider the indigenous land you may reside on and offer a sense of gratitude for the indigenous peoples who stewarded this land and water long before we arrived.

1. Secretary's Report

Annual Meeting Workbook – several committees have already submitted their reports. The plan is to have the secretary look over the reports and then send them immediately to Ann Rappaport who will format the workbook. The deadline for submitting reports to Bonny is April 1st.

VOTED: to accept the 2/8/2022 board meeting minutes as amended.

2. Treasurer's Report and Updates – Jenny Zannetos

Jenny offered the following corrections:

- Jenny backed out \$2.58 from interest income and added to Reserves. This was necessary because of duplicate entries regarding the interest earned on the Needham Bank CD in February 2021.
- At 2020-21 Annual meeting, it was voted to add an additional \$150 for Zoom costs to the \$50 already allocated under the Budget funds until February 2022. The revised 2021-22 budget now includes a total of \$200 for Board costs. In February, when it was noted that the \$150 hadn't been added, the Board Budget line was updated to include it.
- Several charges associated with the How to Run for Local Office meetings that had been inappropriately entered in the Various/Other category were backed out and entered in the appropriate categories. Costs for flyers are now under Publicity and the costs for the Election Resources are now in the Handbook category.

On March 1, 2022, Jenny converted the Needham Bank CD valued at \$5,235.66 to a 1-year CD at 0.25% interest rate.

Total assets as of February 28, 2022 were \$34,203.21. Received dues totaled \$260, including dues from 3 new members. There was a \$40 member donation. The Babson College donation for postcard mailing costs was received under Sponsorships/Donations.

Laura Brown Mackinnon was reimbursed \$140.89 for the Zoom costs per the contract she set up through mid-May. The cost of postcards sent to all Wellesley households was \$3,475 and the cost of printing 400 copies of the Election Guide was \$106.25. Ann Williams was paid \$90 to lay out the Election Guide, which was available at the library, the town hall, and all the polls. Erry Johnson was reimbursed for the gift card given to Jo-Ann Berry for moderating the Meet the Candidates Night.

A discussion followed regarding cost overages associated with the purchase of new VOTE! signs. In November 2021 the board voted to buy 24-26 new yard signs. Ultimately 40 signs were purchased, along with 60 new stakes.

VOTED: to approve purchase of 14 additional signs and \$40 more for stakes, for a grand total of \$343.98.

It was noted that the new signs are in Barbara McMahon's garage.

Jenny, Erry, Wendy, Irene, and Ann then presented the following modifications made to the 2021-22 budget to produce the Proposed 2022-23 Budget:

- Projected dues increased to \$6,400, reflecting projected increase of 5 additional members plus 5 scholarship recipients who would each pay \$20 for membership based on January 31, 2022 membership roster
- Increase projected member donations to \$2800
- Increase Sponsorships/Donations
- Increase Fundraising costs
- Increase Opening Meeting costs
- Increase Various Other costs
- Reduce Annual Meeting Workbook costs
- Decrease national and state PMPs to reflect decreased membership
- Increase Special/Civics Projects costs
- Decrease Election Guide/Vote411 costs
- Increase Website costs

There was consensus on moving WHS Book Award to its own category/line item under Special/Civic Projects.

There was a discussion regarding potential changes in Voter Services expense if naturalization ceremonies are reinstated with the easing of the pandemic, as well as discussion of potential statewide sharing of the over \$1000 cost of the ceremonies.

Another factor that could affect the budget would include resumption of in-person Meet the Candidates Night.

The Proposed 2022-23 Budget projects a shortfall of \$434.75. The plan is to use Reserve Funds to cover the difference.



LWVW Wkbk -
Proposed FY23 Bud!

VOTED: to approve the Proposed 2022-23 Budget as amended.

4. Nominations Committee – Susan Clapham

Susan thanked Niki, Katie Griffiths, Anne Turtle, and Wendy for working on the 2022-23 LWVW Board slate.

An extended discussion regarding the importance of LWVW officers' and board members' reputations for nonpartisanship followed.

LWV Wellesley Board 2022-2023
(proposed)

Executive Board			
Position	Name	Email Address	Phone
Co-President	Wendy Garber	whgarber@comcast.net	781-248-4589
Co-President	Deed McCollum	majdeed20@gmail.com	617-901-5090
Vice President/Programs	Irene Flint	ireneflint1@gmail.com	508-545-2374
Vice President/Voter Services	Erry Johnson	johnsonerry@gmail.com	617-571-2599
Secretary	Ellie Perkins	eperkins@wellesley.edu	781-235-2461
Treasurer	Jenny Zannetos	jzannetos@yahoo.com	781-237-0030
Elected/Appointed Directors			
Membership	Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch	nofenloch@yahoo.com	617-676-7901
Program	Marguerite Chatelier	chateliermm@yahoo.com	617-283-9016
Program	Ann-Mara Lanza	Ann-mara@comcast.net	781-235-9518
Newsletter/Website	Laura Brown-MacKinnon	lbmack98nyc@gmail.com	917-912-2625
Development/Community Outreach	Margie Palladino	mjpalladino@comcast.net	617-686-1897
Event Publicity	TBD		
Social Media Specialist	TBD		
At Large	Bonny Nothern	bonnynothern@gmail.com	978-621-6021
Off-Board Specialists			
Nominating Committee	Susan Ryan	29ryans@gmail.com	617-872-3930
	Ellen Gibbs	efgibbs@gmail.com	781-235-7471
	Board Appointee		
Legislative Envoy	TBD		
Special Project/Videos	Ellen Gibbs	efgibbs@gmail.com	781-235-

			7471
Membership Team			
Administrative/Membership	Niki Ofenloch	Nofenloch@yahoo.com	617-676-7901
Data Base Management/Membership	Deb Codispoti	Vcodispoti1@gmail.com	781-235-2316
Voter Services Team			
Meet the Candidate Night	Jenn Fallon	Jenn_fallon@yahoo.com	508-847-5775
Town Meeting Prep	Barbara McMahon	Bmh411@comcast.net	781-431-9546
Election Guide (VOTE411)	Mary Crown	mecrown@lotsoc.com	781-718-4879
	Ann Swanson	AnnsSwanson8@gmail.com	781-254-6908
How to Run for Public Office	TBD		
Vote Sign Wrangler	Barbara McMahon	Bmh411@comcast.net	781-431-9546
Publications/Govt. Handbook	Gig Babson	k.babson@comcast.net	781-235-4081
Publications/Candidates Guide to Run for Office			
MTCN Questions Team	Erry Johnson	johnsonerry@gmail.com	617-571-2599

VOTED: to approve the proposed 2022-23 slate of LWVW board members and officers as amended.

3. Membership – Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch

There are 122 members, with nine of them added in the past month. The plan is to reach out to all TMMs with information about joining LWVW.

A draft of the LWVW Membership Directory will be sent out prior to discussing it at the next meeting in April.

5. Voter Services/Marketing – Erry Johnson

Meet the Candidates Night debrief was canceled but feedback has been strongly positive. Usefulness of timing paddles and having the opportunity to make a closing statement were mentioned specifically by participants.

Town Government Handbook 2022: A Guide for Elected and Appointed Officials. PDF was emailed to all TMMs and elected officials on March 4. Twenty-five paper copies were printed and made available on request before the TMM orientation on 3/15. There were two notable edits to this year's Guide: a new section describing Town Boards and Committees, and a note that ATM will vote to establish a committee to study the Guidelines for Conduct of TMMs at Town Meeting. Erry recognized Gig Babson for her work on the Guide.

The Video committee met recently to continue working on the first video on Why Town Government Matters which will include shots taken around town as well as brief citizen interviews. Ellen and Erry are recruiting 6-8 potential interview subjects. Rama will schedule interviews.

Upcoming Voter Service activities will include cosponsoring candidate forums for primaries and state offices, coordinating with Programs to schedule ballot initiative forums, production of the Candidate Handbook: How to Run for Wellesley Elected Office – 2023 in early fall, and arranging for a How to Run event which is tentatively scheduled for 12/7/2022.

There was a discussion regarding recognition of long-term elected Wellesley town government officials who are leaving office after losing an election, as happened recently to two officials. Ellen Gibbs wrote an article for the Townsman about two officials who are retiring which has not yet been printed and Erry will talk with Ellen about writing a similar article about the two incumbents who were voted out of office.

Ann Mara requested that board members email her with any feedback regarding the one-page Election Resource Guide.

6. Calendar and Programs – Irene Flint, Marguerite Chatelier, and Ann-Mara Lanza

March 11, 2022 Friday 10:30-11:30 AM – Virtual coffee with Ellen Korpi and David Cohen. Wendy will run the Zoom session and Ann Mara will introduce the speakers. Attendees, including the speakers must register in order to obtain the Zoom link.

March 28, 2022 Monday 7:00 PM virtual Wellesley Town Meeting – There was a discussion of the text of the LWVW statement of support of the upcoming zoning bylaw change vote regarding accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Ann Mara presented a more condensed version. Wendy Garber, who will be reading the position, suggested that emailing the text of the position directly to the TMMs prior to the meeting might decrease the chance of the position being overlooked

in the Zoom discussion. Ann Mara will send that email with the full version of the LWVW statement of support regarding Article 39.

VOTED: that co-president Wendy Garber read the condensed form of the LWVW statement of support regarding Article 39 which includes the proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit zoning change at Town Meeting.

Ann-Mara then submitted another letter of support Article 39 that would come from a community coalition including LWVW, World of Wellesley, Sustainable Wellesley, Chamber of Commerce, Council on Aging, Building a Better Wellesley, Rotary, and the faith groups who co-sponsored fair housing events held last spring.

Irene suggested that an email be sent to all LWVW members letting them know about the decision to join the coalition after the coalition membership has been finalized.

VOTED: to join the coalition of groups supporting Article 39 at Town Meeting.

April 1, 2022 Friday 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM An Introduction to Land Acknowledgments: History and Purpose. Virtual coffee with representative from Wellesley College student group regarding the origin and process behind their Land Acknowledgement. The program committee will send a description of the event to Ann for inclusion in a news blast before the event.

8. Special Projects

The co-presidents suggested that discussion of LWVW participation in the LWVMA civics project as well as of the high school book awards be postponed to the April 2022 board meeting.

8. Newsletter & Website – Ann Rappaport

Ann reported that the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Friday March 11, 2022. The newsletter is scheduled to go out early next week.

10. Co-Presidents' Closing – Laura Brown MacKinnon & Wendy Garber

Laura thanked all LWVW members who worked at the recent town election polls. She also reminded attendees of the upcoming LWV convention June 23-26, 2022. She reported that progress is being made on the project to have our voter resources translated, in particular into Chinese.

The next Board Meeting on April 12, 2022 12:30-2:30 P.M. will be in person at Marguerite Chatelier's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonny Nothern, Secretary