

**League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes**

**July 30, 2020 | 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom**

Board members attending: Susan Clapham, Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Dana Desnoyers, Irene Flint, Ellen Gibbs, Ellen Hallett, Erry Johnson Ann-Mara Lanza, Ann Rappaport, Tanya Roy, Anne Rippy Turtle, Jenny Zannetos.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Co-president Susan Clapham. A quorum was present.

1. Minutes of June 9, 2020

The minutes were amended under 11(b) Shared Real Estate for Signage. The second sentence was amended such that it reads: "The Board concluded that if the issue is one the League supports there is no conflict [for a LWVW VOTE yard sign to be posted near an "issue" sign]. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended.

VOTED: To approve the June 9, 2020 minutes as amended.

2. Treasurer's Report – Jenny Zannetos

Jenny reported on year-end FY2020 (July1, 2019-June 30, 2020) Budget vs Actual report and Balance Sheet. LWVW ended FY2020 with a balance of \$29,430.57. It also came in under budget ending with a surplus of \$1,439.28.

Income and expenses were reviewed. The major budget savings were due to the Annual Workbook, which was emailed this year instead of being printed and mailed and savings under Nat'l/State Meeting Expenses since State Council was conducted via Zoom and therefore delegates did not need to pay registration fees.

3. Co-Presidents Update – Susan Clapham & Laura Brown MacKinnon

For fall - and likely beyond - our meetings and events will take place via Zoom. Long-term event planning will be complicated by health concerns and restrictions on size of gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Programs/Calendar – Ann-Mara Lanza & Irene Flint

Irene stated that there are many unknowns this year making planning difficult and frequently tentative.

Board Meetings: It was agreed that board meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month via zoom.

Opening Meeting: The board discussed speakers and agreed to invite Juliette Kayyem. The date will depend on her availability. Late September or the first half of October would be desirable. If Juliette Kayyem is unavailable, Charles Stewart, MIT Professor who was to speak at the LWVMA Council Meeting in June and Ismar Volic, Wellesley College professor, were suggested as alternatives. This event could be held as a webinar open to other Leagues and the public as well as streamed live via Wellesley Media and recorded for posting.

Meet the Candidates Night: This is typically held a few days before Town elections, which is scheduled for March 3, 2021. The proposed date for MTCN is Feb. 24 at 6:30PM. Potential vote by mail dates will need to be considered in setting the MTCN date and will affect the publication date for the LWVW Election Guide.

Town Meeting Prep Sessions: Tentative dates are March 25 & 28, 2021. No prep sessions are currently planned for fall.

LWVW Annual Meeting: TBD: Suggested dates: May 12, 13, 19 or 20.

Wellesley Meet-Up: Erry and Susan offered to help think through how to present this event online.

Events and dates yet to be determined include: Brown Bag events, a Housing Study educational program event, Legislators event and a possible event with Dr. Charmie Curry, WPS Diversity Director.

Primary and General Election in-person voting and voter registration deadlines are noted on the LWVW website calendar.

The Housing Study Committee has divided into two subcommittees - one focused on sustainability and the other on diversity. The full Committee has met twice and has scheduled monthly Zoom meetings through February for the third Wednesday of the month at 10AM-12PM. A Google Drive folder will be created to hold housing documents. It was suggested that a link to the folder be posted on the LWVW website.

5. Voter Service – Erry Johnson & Dana Desnoyers

Candidate Forum for Wellesley Board of Selectmen to fill the unexpired term of Jack Morgan has been planned for August 6 at 6-7 PM, It will be live streamed and recorded through Wellesley Media. This special election will take place on September 1 along with the State Primary election. Questions from the public have been invited via Gmail. An LWVW moderator has been secured.

Voter Registration: Joan Savitt created and posted an Instagram notice regarding the voter registration deadline for the September 1 primary targeted to high school students. Erry will be in contact with WHS teacher, Emily Giddings, about possible LWVW collaborations with her Electoral Politics class this fall. Voter Service hopes/plans to continue some form of its voter registration drives at WHS twice a year. It has also offered to continue registration drives at Waterstone. Ann-Mara offered to give contact information to Erry about a WHS student-led group that sponsored a series of zoom forums on diversity this summer.

How To Run For Public Office is planned for early December most likely via zoom.

VOTE Yard Signs & Banners: New member, Andrea Barnhill, has volunteered to organize the distribution of yard signs in early August for the state primary election on September 1. The date of the primary, in-person early voting dates and LWVW website address will be an add-on to the new “Vote Safe. Vote by Mail” yard signs. A vote banner will be displayed at the library, but not the RDF (AKA The Dump).

Co-Sponsor Candidate Forum:

LWVNeedham has asked if LWVW would like to co-sponsor a zoom forum for the Norfolk County Democratic Primary Candidates for County Commissioner, County Treasurer and County Register of Probate on August 17 at 4 p.m. LWVNeedham is the lead host. The sense of the group favored co-sponsoring this event. A motion was made and seconded to co-sponsor the Norfolk County Democratic Primary Candidates Forum for County Commissioner, County Treasurer and County Register of Probate on August 17 at 4 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTED: To co-sponsor the Norfolk County Democratic Primary Candidates Forum for County Commissioner, County Treasurer and County Register of Probate on August 17 at 4 p.m.

Ellen H. will inform Karen Price of the LWVNeedham of our vote to co-sponsor this event.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) will be a ballot question in November 3 election. Last October, LWVW’s Opening Meeting featured advocates for Ranked Choice Voting. It was suggested that we post LWVW’s recorded RCV event on our website as a source of information for the upcoming ballot question. In addition, LWVW can support RCV this fall via letters the editor, on LWVW FaceBook and Twitter and by a notice in our Newsletter and on our website.

Town Debt Exclusion: If this question is brought forward for a town vote this fall, Voter Service could organize a Zoom forum on the subject.

6. Legislative Envoy – Tanya Roy

LWVMA is working to collect State and County candidate responses for its VOTE411 online voter guide, which is scheduled to go live August 10. Poll workers are in demand and the Legislature has passed a law making it possible to for poll workers to work outside their town. Tanya noted that the Legislative Session has been extended once this year and may be extended again. She gave an update on the status of several bills – transportation, climate and the budget. The Wellesley Town Clerk has indicated that she will begin sending requested mail-in ballots for the September 1 primary in a week.

7. Newsletter & Website – Ann Rappaport

Both the June and July Newsletters are published. Ann and Susan will work on an August edition. The newsletter is sent to about 170-190 email addresses including media outlets like the Townsman, Swellesley Report, etc. Anyone can subscribe to the newsletter. About half of the emails are opened, which is significantly above the 10-15% standard for such publications. We now have access to Google analytics. Not many members have signed up for the Members Only section. Ann reported that she has “cleaned up” the LWVW website.

8. Publicity – Ellen Gibbs

Ellen spoke about the need for standardization of our communications, e.g. basic guidelines as well as a list of appropriate contacts depending on the event. She can prepare press releases and get in touch with various platforms regarding what they need and want. How the League can expand its reach, grow its brand, engage more people and become the “go to” place for civic engagement and information are goals she intends to pursue. She plans to speak with Stephanie Hawkinson, Wellesley Communications and Project Manager, about ways LWVW can coordinate with the town. Ellen would also like to speak to individual board members. She noted that events require a lot of orchestration such as planning who you want to contact and when you want people to receive the event invitation/notice. LWVW could use more in the way of follow-up to events she stated.

Discussion: A survey or a publicity piece about who we are and the way we work in the community was suggested as well as an events timeline. We need a strategy for our programs. It is important to arrange for photos and videos of events to be taken and posted on our website and social media sites.

9. Membership – Anne Rippy Turtle

Currently, LWVW has over 140 members. Anne announced that three people had recently joined. The member renewal letter will be sent in September. The 50-Year Member Certificate for Irene Flint has been prepared. It was noted that the friendly (How are you?) outreach calls that Board members made in May were well-received and served as a good retention measure as well.

It was suggested that, as a recruitment strategy, we request community organizations such as PTO's to allow us to make a brief presentation at their meetings about how government works and what LWVW does in the community. The WHS PTO might be particularly interested as a means of involving and informing the new young voters at WHS.

10. Other Business

Finance Drive: Tabled to September 8 board meeting.

WFL Showcase Exhibit: Susan will consult with Library administrators about the status of this project.

Ad Hoc Committee to Review Voter Guide Submission Policy: Ann-Mara volunteered to join Susan in this review. She suggested inviting Joan Savitt who is involved in the Election Guide project.

Board Member Job Description: Susan reminded Board member to write a “job description” outlining the responsibilities in their administrative area (e.g.; Voter Service, Calendar, Membership). These job descriptions will be useful in recruiting. The due date is end of November.

Voter publications: Jenny offered to assist in the review of the Voter Handbook. A request for volunteers to help update the Candidate Handbook will be included in the Newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hallett, Secretary