

**League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2020 | 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Via Zoom**

Board members attending: Susan Clapham, Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Dana Desnoyers, Irene Flint, Ellen Hallett, Erry Johnson Ann-Mara Lanza, Ann Rappaport, Tanya Roy, Anne Rippy Turtle, Jenny Zannetos.
Absent: Ellen Gibbs. Members: Marlene O'Brien, Mary Liz Van Dyck.

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

1. Minutes of October 13, 2020

Under item #5 a correction was made for a misspelling and the Arnold Room was replaced by the Wakelin Room. A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 13, 2020 minutes as amended.

VOTED: To approve the October 13, 2020 minutes as amended.

2. Treasurer's Update – Jenny Zannetos

Total LWVW net assets as of October 31, 2020 were \$32,073.56. Expenses were paid for the Opening Meeting speaker and membership renewal mailing. Dues and donations are coming in. Jenny will file Form 990-N with the IRS for FY2020.

3. Membership – Anne Rippy Turtle

To date, 93 members have renewed their membership and recently one new member has joined. Last year the membership totaled 138. Typically, renewals come in slowly at this time of year. A reminder will be sent to those who have not yet renewed and a renewal notice will be put in the November Newsletter.

4. Voter Service – Erry Johnson & Dana Desnoyers

How to Run for Local Public Office event will feature Town Meeting Moderator Mark Kaplan and former Town Clerk, Cathy Nagle. The event will be recorded and held via zoom on December 2 at 7:30 p.m. Dana, Jenny and Erry have updated the *Candidate Handbook*. An event flyer will be distributed shortly.

Meet the Candidates Night will be held on February 25, 2021 via zoom at 7 p.m. Typically, this event is live streamed and recorded by Wellesley Media. However, another town group has a reservation for this date and time. Erry was advised to contact the group who has the reservation with Wellesley Media services for Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. to see if they might reschedule their event.

Town Government Handbook has been updated and is currently being proofed.

Town Vote on debt exclusion for infrastructure and other upgrades needed at Wellesley Middle School (WMS)- December 1. The LWVW supports a Yes vote on this measure. The Board discussed how best to get out the word about this vote. A mail-in ballot will be sent to those who requested mail-in ballots for all of 2020. In-person voting will be available on Dec. 1 and the locations and times noted on the Town Clerks web page. The Town Hall drop box is also available for depositing ballots. LWVW members who have VOTE lawn signs will be urged to put them out and a new date "insert" will be mailed to them. The November Newsletter will carry a notice about this vote with a link to further information about the project from the Town website. The event will also be listed on the LWVW website calendar. Susan will send a Letter to the Editor of the Townsman on behalf of LWVW advocating for a "yes" vote. The Swellesley Report and social media venues were also suggested as places to publicize this town vote.

November 13 - Coffee with School Board Members 10-11 a.m. This Zoom event will provide background information about the WMS project and the debt exclusion vote on December 1. It will be recorded.

5. Legislative Envoy Update – Tanya Roy

LWVMA 100th Birthday Gala, December 13, 1-3 p.m. Tanya encouraged Board members to register for the virtual birthday celebration. The event will feature Dr. Danielle Allen, University Professor at Harvard. Her address is entitled, “Massachusetts Post-Pandemic: A New Social Compact?”

LWVMA will honor several members for their outstanding contributions to the work of the League. Tanya has submitted our nomination for this award - LWVW Vice-President for Voter Service, Erry Johnson.

Several upcoming LWVMA events related to transportation were noted. They are:

Transportation & Climate Initiative Forum, November 10, which will focus on clean transportation for rural communities featuring Secretary for Energy and Environmental Affairs Katie Theoharides.

The MBTA will hold a virtual discussion about its proposed cuts to services tonight, November 10. The LWVMA opposes the cuts.

LWVMA and T4MA Transportation Policy Forum, November 16, will featuring LWVMA Co-President Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, and Metropolitan Area Planning Council Manager of Government Affairs Lizzi Weyant, and other leaders and activists in transportation policy.

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

Housing Study Update – The Housing Study Committee monthly meeting is scheduled for November 18. 10:30-12:30. A guest speaker, updates from the Sustainability and Diversity Subcommittees and a clarification of the consensus process will be presented. A potential new member will join the meeting.

Affordable Housing Presentation and Discussion, January 14, 7:30-9 p.m. This is part of a series of open meetings on the issue of affordable housing. This zoom event will focus on affordable housing in Wellesley. Other interested town groups will be invited, such as Sustainable Wellesley, NRC, etc. The invited speaker is Jennifer Raitt, Director of Planning and Community Development for Arlington, MA.

The Board discussed addressing the subject of racism through an event this spring. A spring date for a Brown Bag Lunch or Coffee with Dr. Charmie Curry, Wellesley Public Schools Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion will be sought.

Events by month:

November 13	Coffee with School Board Members
December 2	How to Run for Local Public Office
January 14	Affordable Housing Event
February 25	Meet the Candidates Night
March	TBD (Event the Dr. Charmie Curry)
April	TBD (Meeting with State Legislators)
May	TBD Annual Meeting

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

Action Committees: An that idea came from the October League Leaders Lunch involves creating 2-3 member “Action Committees” to support the various League functions. For example, an Action Committee for Programs would consist of several members who could be called upon to help with an event. It would be a way to involve members, de-mystify the Board and be a part of succession planning. It was suggested that such “committees” could be helpful with social media.

An LWVW internship for a high-school student, perhaps with a small stipend, was proposed.

2020 Holiday Party. How to replace the annual Holiday Luncheon with a virtual event was debated. Among the suggestions were: show a movie or have presentation, invite a compelling/interesting speaker and , return to the “main” room for a group discussion, ask random questions or share an experience, use breakout rooms and rotate members or allow them to pass from one room to another, mail a holiday card with a tea bag, just have time to catch up with one another, honor our own life members and learn about the history of LWVW. Do members want another zoom event or are we “zoomed out”? It was decided to mail a holiday card with a tea bag in December and to consider some kind of get-together in January 2021.

8. Other Business

Scharfman Grant: The Board agreed to apply for the Scharfman Grant for reimbursement of the cost of our Opening Meeting Speaker’s honorarium. Jenny will submit the application.

Board Member job descriptions are due at end of November. Ellen is collecting them.

Ann-Mara added that she represented the LWVW on a panel discussion at Chauncy Chapel Hill school with the Mayor of Waltham, a state representative and City Councilor.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hallett
Secretary