

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2021 | 1:00-3:00 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.
Members: 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 December 8, 2020

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of December 8, 2020.

VOTED: To approve the December 8, 2020 minutes.

2. Treasurer's Update – Jenny Zannetos

Total LWVW net assets as of December 31, 2020 amounted to \$33,300.97. Income and expenses for December were reviewed. The CD at the Needham Bank was rolled over to a 14-month CD in December as per the Board's vote. Jenny has applied for a Scharfman grant for reimbursement of the cost of our Opening Meeting Speaker's honorarium. Erry has reached out to Roche Bros and they have agreed to make a donation in support of MTCN.

3. Legislative Envoy – Tanya Roy

The 2019-2020 legislative session ended on January 5, 2021 and the new session started the following day and officially ends Dec. 31, 2022. The deadline to file new bills is February 19, 2021. Senator Rausch has filed a bill to make mail-in voting permanent. Currently, the Legislature has authorized mail-in voting through March 31, 2021 so that mail-in voting can be an option for Wellesley's March 2, 2021 town elections. LWVMA continues to advocate for same-day voter registration. At this time, a Transportation bond bill and Climate bill are on Governor Baker's desk along with the 141 bills that have been passed by the Legislature and await Baker's action. Governor Baker has signed the Roe Act and Police Reform bills. The LWVMA Legislative Specialists are in the process of reviewing the bills pertaining to their specialty from among the total 5-6,000 bills that are expected to be filed for the new legislative session. In Tanya's specialty area of transportation, there are anticipated to be about 1000 bills filed. Some contain overlapping issues, which are often consolidated into one bill during the legislative process. During the past legislative session, Tanya focused primarily on six transportation bills

4. Voter Service – Erry Johnson & Dana Desnoyers

Meet the Candidates Night (MTCN) will be held on February 11, 2021. This earlier-than-usual date was set in order to provide voters with information about candidates prior to mail-in voting period, which begins mid-February.

Voter Guide: Members of the Voter Service and Voter Guide Team met to discuss the implications of early voting for the Voter Guide, which is normally published in the Townsman about a week before town elections. The Committee decided to recommend *not* to publish a printed Voter Guide this year in view of mail-in voting dates, the dwindling Townsman circulation, cost of publication vs. benefit and in consideration of the alternative available via VOTE411. The Board discussed the matter. It was suggested that LWVW mail a postcard to all households of registered voters with the

URL for VOTE411, QR code, and essential voting information as well as notice of MTCN. VOTE411 could also be publicized in the Swellesley Report, social media and Townsman, etc. A postcard would also be good publicity for LWVW. Sponsors could be enlisted to support the project including the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund and their logos displayed on the postcard. It was estimated that VOTE411 content could be input and ready by February 11. After much discussion, it was decided to investigate the cost of printing and mailing a postcard. If the postcard approach is not feasible, the alternative of publicizing VOTE 411 via electronic and print channels will be pursued. Ann-Mara reported that Mary Crown has agreed to take over VOTE411.

MTCN: Erry noted that “timers” are needed for MTCN as well as members to review questions emailed from the public.

Voter Registration: Erry has contacted WHS, Waterstone about voting registration dates and procedures. and publicized registration the information via social media.

Vote Signs: Many members are storing the vote yard signs from recent elections at their homes. They will need to be updated with the March 2 election date. Susan volunteered to find someone to coordinate the vote signs project for the upcoming Town elections.

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

Housing in Wellesley: Our Past, Our Future, Our Values, January 14, 7:30pm – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. To date, 117 people have registered. It has attracted sponsorship from 10+ local organizations. The program will feature two speakers, Jennifer Raitt, the Director of Planning and Community Development for the Town of Arlington, MA and Don McCauley, Wellesley's Planning Director, followed by Q&A. Meghan Jop, Town of Wellesley Executive Director, will also be present to answer questions. The event will be recorded and live-streamed on Wellesley Media.

Housing Study -The Sustainability and Diversity Subcommittees will present their consensus questions to the Board at its February meeting. Unit Meetings with the LWVW membership have been scheduled in March as follows: the Diversity Subcommittee will present its consensus questions with pros & cons on March 12, and the Sustainability Subcommittee will present on March 19.

Hood Feminism Book Event: A Sunday afternoon book event took place on January 31 for members and their guest to discuss *Hood Feminism* by Mikki Kendall. This was a member generated event. Christina Horner, Co-president of World of Wellesley, moderated the event.

LWVW Calendar of Events: A zoom coffee event with Dr. Curry, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, WPS is tentatively planned for April as is a Coffee with State Legislators for May. The Annual Meeting date was set for May 19, 2021 at 7-9 p.m.

6. Co-President's Update – Susan Clapham & Laura Brown-MacKinnon

MetroWest Meeting & Fundraiser Idea: Tanya, Susan and Laura attended the LWVMA MetroWest Meeting recently, The LWVMA is surveying members for program planning ideas and asking for nominations for the state board. At the meeting, local Leagues shared various innovative activities. LWVNeedham is planning a fundraiser for their town food bank in conjunction with Juniper restaurant. Patrons buy a ticket and pick up a Juniper meal on the day of the event. While enjoying the meal at home, they can view via zoom a cooking lesson of the chef actually preparing the meal they are enjoying. The Board considered doing a similar fundraiser for the Wellesley food pantry. Susan will contact LWVNeedham to find out more about how they organized this event.

LWVW Member Survey: It was decided to email a survey to LWVW members in January to gather their ideas and suggestions for future programs, as well as their skills, interests and availability.

Non-Partisan Policy: This policy was discussed in relation to Ann-Mara's campaign for Select Board. The LWVW Non-partisanship Policy requires Board approval for Board members "running or holding and elected office." Ann-Mara, LWVW Vice-president/Programs, recused herself from this portion of the meeting. After some discussion among board members, Ann-Mara rejoined the meeting. The Board gave approval for her to campaign for office, However, should she be elected to the Select Board in the town elections on March 2, the Board will reconsider the matter,

7. Membership – Anne Rippy Turtle

Anne reported that there are approximately 116 paid LWVW members currently. She has been contacting the roughly 20 members who have not renewed to date.

As a member of the Nominating Committee, Anne reported that she is seeking a replacement for one of the Committee members, who had to step off the Committee for work reasons. The board agreed that it would approve a substitute member.

The meeting ended at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hallett
Secretary