

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Annual Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2020 | 7:00-8:20 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members present: Susan Clapham, Co-President; Ellen Hallett, Co-President; Marguerite Chatelier, Jean Childs, May Ann Cluggish, Dana Desnoyers, Irene Flint, Erry Johnson, Katherine Kaufmann, Ann-Mara Lanza, Melissa Martin, Raina McManus, Alice Miller, Fran O'Leary, Janie Penn, Ellie Perkins, Ann Rappaport, Tanya Roy, Katherine Ruffin, Susan Ryan, Joan Savitt, Barbara Searle, Ann Swanson, Anne Rippy Turtle, Lynne Uhl, Mary Liz Van Dyck, Sally Watts, Kathleen Woodward, Jenny Zannetos.

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Susan Clapham at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-president, Susan Clapham, welcomed members to the virtual Annual Meeting. She stated that the meeting is being recorded. She noted that the Wellesley Town election date has been set for June 13, 2020. The LWVW, in cooperation with the Town Clerk's Vote Safe/Vote from Home campaign, is encouraging mail-in voting because of the COVID-19 pandemic. LWVW has created a new lawn sign promoting voting by mail. The signs will be distributed around town this weekend. An overview of the meeting was presented by Co-President, Ellen Hallett, and Susan Clapham explained procedures for voting and asking questions.

2. Committee of Three to Read the Annual Meeting Minutes

Those interested on serving on the Committee were encouraged to contact Susan.

3. Nomination Slate for FY2020-2021

Nominating Committee member, Ann Rappaport, presented the FY2020-2021 Nomination Slate. She explained that a third member of next year's Nominating Committee will be appointed from among Board members as stipulated in the bylaws. Board member, Anne R. Turtle, has agreed to serve in that position. Ann noted that there are three new and nine returning board members on the slate. The new members are: Co-president Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Co-Vice-president for Voter Service Dana Desnoyers (this is a new position), and Director of Publicity & Marketing, Ellen Gibbs.

Executive Board

Co-President	Susan Clapham
Co-President	Laura Brown-MacKinnon
Vice-President, Program	Ann-Mara Lanza
Co-Vice-President, Voter Service	Erica Johnson
Co-Vice-President, Voter Service	Dana Desnoyers
Treasurer	Jenny Zannetos
Secretary	Ellen Hallett

Elected Directors

Program/Calendar	Irene Flint
Publicity/Marketing	Ellen Gibbs
Newsletter/Website	Ann Rappaport
Legislative Envoy	Tanya Roy
Membership	Anne Rippy Turtle

Nominating Committee

Mary Liz Van Dyke
Alison Bedenkop

Hearing no nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded to elect the FY2020-2021 LWVW Board of Directors and Nominating Committee Members as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

VOTED: To elect the FY2020-2021 LWVW Board of Directors and Nominating Committee members as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

4. Budget Adoption

The FY2020-2021 Budget proposal was presented by Irene Flint, LWVW Director and Budget Group Member. The proposed FY2020-2021 budget totals \$13,000.48. Irene noted that this proposal was created in early March prior to the cancellations/lockdown caused by COVID-19. Some expenses such as room rentals for events may not be as high as anticipated. Likewise, some income such as interest on CD's may be less than projected. A question was raised about whether a Finance Drive (listed as "Non-member Donations" on the budget) would be held this coming year. Susan Clapham responded that the issue will be considered at the Board's July planning meeting. There being no further questions, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the FY2020-2021 LWVW Budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

VOTED: To adopt the LWVW FY2020-2021 Budget as presented.

5. Local Program Re-adoption

The League of Women Voters of Wellesley Local Program was presented by Vice-president/Programs, Ann-Mara Lanza. The Local Program represents policy positions on local issues that have been developed after a thorough study. Local positions comply with the national and state League policies and are specific to the local area. She reviewed the key components of the program: Town Government, Natural Resources and Land Use, Education and Social Policy. A motion was made and seconded to re-adopt the Local Program. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

VOTED: To re-adopt the Local Program.

6. Housing Study Proposal

Ann-Mara presented a proposal to undertake a study on housing in Wellesley in FY2020-2021. The last study on land use was completed in 1974. Since then, Wellesley's demographics and housing status and needs have changed significantly. Currently, per its local program, the LWVW supports

- "Low and moderate-income housing, provided preferably by rehabilitation and use of existing buildings in scattered site locations with the buildings in character with others in the area.
- Moderately priced housing for all ages."

The 2018 Housing Production Plan calls for diversity of housing for various groups including seniors, the workforce and low-income persons. The new study would "investigate the intersection of housing, sustainability, and diversity, as well as funding for housing projects." The proposed Housing Study Committee would set the scope of the study, and research the study questions by gathering data from national, state and town sources. The Committee would also deliver a final report, present at least one educational program to LWVW members and public and prepare consensus questions for LWVW members' consideration, possibly at the next Annual Meeting. In response to a question about touring existing low-income housing in Wellesley during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ann-Mara stated that it would be desirable to do so, but the Committee would need to be respectful of residents, and a visit, while not possible during the pandemic, might be possible later. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Housing Study Proposal as presented. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

VOTED: To adopt/approve the Housing Study Proposal as presented.

7. Bylaws Amendment Proposal

Co-president Ellen Hallett presented a bylaws amendment proposal to change the delivery date of the Annual Meeting Workbook from one month to two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The rationale for this proposal maintains that two weeks is sufficient time to review the workbook and further would permit a more complete report of the fiscal year's program by including April activities. In addition, emailing an electronic version of the workbook is more efficient, less costly and "greener." This year, the workbook was emailed as a pdf document one month in advance of the Annual Meeting with the option to receive a paper version if requested. No such requests were made. The sections in the bylaws that would be affected by this amendment were specified. A motion was made and seconded to amend the League of Women Voters of Wellesley Bylaws to reflect a change to the delivery date of the Annual Workbook from one month to two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

VOTED: To amend the League of Women Voters of Wellesley Bylaws to reflect a change to the delivery date of the Annual Workbook from one month to two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

8. Updates from the Board

Voter Service: Erry Johnson, Vice-President/Voter Service, noted that 20 LWVW members have helped register new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremonies in Lowell this past year. Many voter-related events have been affected by the pandemic. The June 10, 2020 Naturalization Ceremony has been cancelled and the status of the August ceremony is undecided. Although the March 12th Meet the Candidates Night was cancelled, candidate information was, and is, still available online at VOTE411.org. Erry is working with Joan Savitt to design an Instagram flyer informing WHS Juniors and Seniors that the last day to register to vote for the Town election is June 3. She will attend a webinar about plans for the National Voter Registration Day in September. LWVW will not be offering rides to the polls this fall because of the pandemic. She thanked the teams who worked on updating the *2020 Town Government Handbook* and the *2020 Town Election Candidate Handbook*, both of which are posted on the LWVW website.

Programs: Ann-Mara Lanza and Irene Flint. This past year, LWVW events have addressed such issues as: Rank Choice Voting, housing issues and the school referendum. Brown Bag Lunches have provided opportunities to meet with town officials and state legislators as well as to collaborate with town organizations on events focusing on women's history and climate change. Looking forward to FY2021, a panel focusing on housing in Wellesley, and a possible virtual Meet the Candidates Night are being considered.

Newsletter/Website: Ann Rappaport offered to assist members wishing to access the "Members Only" section of the LWVW website. This section houses the Member Directory, board meeting minutes and agenda, and the recent Zoom video of our meeting with State Legislators. She reported that the most popular website pages relate to elections, school referendum and the calendar.

Legislative Envoy: Tanya Roy reported that there are currently a number of bills in the state legislature relating to election reform advocating for safer and easier voting in light of the pandemic. LWVMA is a part of the Election Modernization Coalition composed of various non-profits supporting HD 5075. This bill would require the Secretary of State to mail a ballot to every registered voter in the state for the November election. Additionally, it would extend the early voting period, lengthen the voter registration period, and extend the deadline for mailed ballots among other provisions. There is a sense of urgency about addressing voting issues.

Membership: Anne Rippy Turtle reported that as of March 31, 2020, there were 138 LWVW members, of which 31 were new members. She read the names of the new members present at the meeting and welcomed them. LWVW has eight Life Members. Irene Flint becomes the newest Life Member this year.

Board of Directors: Susan Clapham noted that FY2020 was a busy year and that FY2021 promises to be challenging considering the Town, Primary and November elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. She welcomed her new Co-President, Laura Brown-MacKinnon. Laura said that she has been impressed with LWVW members, as well as her experiences registering voters at the Lowell Naturalization Ceremonies and as a member of the Ballot Study Committee. She is interested in reaching out to the next generation and working on voting issues.

9. Directions to the Board

It was suggested that the Finance Drive is not necessary for next year as LWVW's current balance sheet is healthy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Hallett, Secretary