

**League of Women Voters of Wellesley**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 9, 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: Marguerite Chatelier, Barbara McMahon, Bonny Nothern, 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 January 12, 2021**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021 with a verb tense correction from “took place” to “will take place” on page 2 under Programs/Calendar, Hood Feminism. **VOTED:** To approve the January 12, 2021 minutes as amended.

**2. Treasurer’s Update – Jenny Zannetos**

LWVW’s net assets as of January 31, 2021 totaled \$33,226.06. Income and expenses for January were reviewed. Since the Scharfman Grant application submitted in January was not received by the Scharfman Grant Committee, Jenny will apply for a Scharfman grant in April for reimbursement for either the honorarium paid to Juliette Kayyem, our Opening Meeting speaker, or for a grant toward the Town election post card printing and mailing. Expenses for the election post cards are estimated to cost \$3,500 of which \$500 is expected from the Community Fund for Wellesley and a portion will come from the \$1,500 expected from Roche Bros. The post cards are estimated to arrive at Wellesley households on February 13.

*Budget Committee* – Board members volunteered to serve on the FY2021-22 Budget Committee with Jenny. They include: Irene Flint, Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Susan Clapham, Erry Johnson and Ann Rappaport. Jenny will contact members for a meeting date in late February or early March.

**3. Legislative Envoy – Tanya Roy**

The 2021-22 Mass. legislative session began on January 6, 2021. Bills are being filed through February 19, 2021. LVWMA is supporting same-day voter registration, the regional transportation ballot initiative and environmental bills among others. The Legislative Specialists are currently reviewing the proposed legislation and will finalize a list of bills that they will focus on for this session. An important climate change bill was approved by the legislature last session, but vetoed by the Governor and sent back with changes. It is being reconsidered by the legislature at this time and LWVMA Legislative Specialists are currently reviewing it. Tanya announced that moderator training will be held on February 16.

**4. Voter Service – Erry Johnson & Dana Desnoyers**

*Town Election* - Erry thanked Joan Savitt and Susan Clapham for their work on the Town election post card project. Waterstone residents, Wellesley High School voters and the Sisters of Charity were contacted with voter registration and election information.

*Meet the Candidates Night (MTCN)* - The MTCN questions team is reviewing questions emailed from the public in advance of the event. Tanya and Laura will monitor incoming questions during the event. Erry thanked Ellen Gibbs for her work on the retiree recognition tributes. MTCN will be presented via zoom as well as live-streamed on Wellesley Media and recorded.

Publicity for MTCN and the Election Guide is underway, sent out from six to two weeks ahead of the event to about 20 organizations and to all TMMs and is posted on social media sites.

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

*Annual Meeting Workbook* – A list of articles for the workbook sorted by board member was provided in the meeting materials and briefly reviewed. Articles are due by April 9.

*Luncheon Discussion with Dr. Charmie Curry, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, WPS* has been confirmed for April 16 at 12-1 p.m. via zoom.

*Housing Study Consensus Questions:* The Board discussed the proposed consensus questions submitted by the Housing Study Committee. The board-approved questions will be presented to the membership at Unit Meetings in March where LWVW members will have the opportunity to discuss them and share their perspectives.

*Housing Diversity Consensus Questions* – The Subcommittee on Housing Diversity formulated two questions. Question 1 focused on housing diversity broadly defined while Question 2 focused on the town government’s accountability and progress for housing diversity. In question 1 (a)&(b) housing diversity is addressed both in terms of “housing types and price levels” as well as “housing options that allow for diversity of age, income, ethnicity, race and physical ability.” Both facets of housing diversity are intrinsically interrelated. The Subcommittee sought to create a question that would support the LWVW’s advocacy of a wide range of housing diversity initiatives. Question 2 addresses the responsibility of the Town to address, set goals and move forward on matters of housing diversity and affordability.

### *Comments:*

- A housing lottery with a local preference for people who work in town was suggested.
- Consider replacing “accountability” in question 2 with a word like “progress”.
- It was noted that the Housing Production Plan calls for a town Housing Coordinator position to advance affordable housing goals.
- The Wellesley Unified Plan specifies housing goals and timelines. Who is monitoring the town’s progress as outlined in Chapter 15: Implementation Priorities?
- The condition of some town public housing needs improvement and should be addressed.
- Should LWVW revive the Observers Corps consisting of members who attend town board/committee meetings and report back? This would be helpful in monitoring progress on housing goals.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Housing Study diversity consensus questions as presented. The motion was carried.

**VOTED:** To approve the Housing Study diversity consensus questions as presented.

*Housing Sustainability Consensus Questions* – The Subcommittee on Sustainability formulated four questions. The four questions address: 1) housing sustainability in planning, construction and maintenance to support a healthy environment, 2) housing developments in walkable areas near public transportation, town assets and retail sectors, 3) housing that promotes the health of residents and 4) affordable housing projects that seek to meet sustainability certification standards such as LEED or equivalent.

*Comments:*

- The last question, which refers to “LEED certification or equivalent” represents an aspirational standard.
- Supporting LEED criteria or equivalent is intended to encourage developers to meet clear sustainability standards.
- Does the word “seek” in question 4 relating to attaining LEED standards or equivalent mean that “attempts are sufficient? What happens if a project falls short of such sustainability standards?
- We will be missing something if the sustainability questions do not address widely recognized sustainability standards such as LEED.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Housing Study sustainability consensus questions as presented. The motion was carried.

**VOTED:** To approve the Housing Study sustainability consensus questions as presented.

*Consensus Questions Unit Meetings* will be held via zoom on:

March 12 Housing Diversity 10am-12pm

March 19 Housing Sustainability 10am-12pm

Moderators and recorders for each will be sought. The sessions will be recorded.

## **6. Co-Presidents Update – Susan Clapham & Laura Brown-MacKinnon**

*DEI Statement on LWVW website* – Laura proposed that a statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion be added to the LWVW website under the a ABOUT section. She proposed using either the 1) the [LWVMA DEI](#), or 2) the [LWVUS DEI policy statement](#). The Board favored the LWVMA statement which reads as follows:

*“LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.”*

A motion was made and seconded to update the LWVW website by including the LWVMA DEI policy statement. The motion carried unanimously.

**VOTED:** To update the LWVW website by including the LWVMA DEI policy statement.

It was suggested that the adoption of the DEI policy be included on the Annual Meeting agenda.

*Member Survey* – There were 28 responses to the survey. The survey responses will be used to assist in planning.

*Hood Feminism Book event* – January 31, 2021. 3 pm. Cristina Horner, Co-president of World of Wellesley facilitated the discussion. 28 people attended this member-suggested event.

*Potential LWVW Fundraiser for Wellesley Food Pantry* – Susan explained how LVWNeedham organized a fundraising event for Needham’s food pantry in collaboration with Chef Dave Becker of Juniper Restaurant. The event raised \$3,000. It consisted of a meal prepared by Chef Becker that 100 participants picked up on the day of the event. That evening via zoom the Chef demonstrated how he made the dinner. The cost was \$75 of which \$55 went to the Needham food pantry. If LWVW were to plan a similar event, we would need to partner with other nonprofits. Susan will further investigate this idea.

## **7. Membership & Nominating Committee - Anne Rippy Turtle**

*Membership* – Anne reported that as of January 31, 2021 LWVW has 123 members as follows:  
100 individual members

11 households

4 students

8 Life members

To date the total number of members is 125. 18 members did not renew.

*Nominating Committee* – Anne announced that Barbara McMahon has agreed to fill the unexpired term of Alison Bedenhop. The Committee is seeking nominees for Co-president, Co-vice-president of Voter Service, Secretary. Membership and two positions for the FY2021-22 Nominating Committee. It was clarified that “Off-board Specialists” do not need to be a part of the nomination slate presented at the Annual Meeting as they are appointed positions. The board discussed ways to provide financial assistance for memberships. The matter will be taken up at the Budget Committee meeting.

## **8, Website/Newsletter – Ann Rappaport**

Ann will add the DEI statement to the website and include a notice about the various positions the Nominating Committee is seeking in the upcoming newsletter. Unit Meetings dates will also be noted.

## **9. Publicity/Marketing – Ellen Gibbs**

Ellen is completing the Town retiree tributes. Discussion ensued about sending the tributes to the Townsman and Swellesley Report for publication. Ellen is interested in developing a promotional piece for LWVW to get the word out about LWVW’s deep roots in the community and its active participation in the in the civic life of the town through its programs, partnerships and engagement in local events.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Hallett  
Secretary’