

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org

Spring 2019

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CALENDAR

APRIL

3	Wed.	Board Meeting, 9 am-12 pm
3	Wed.	Local Program meeting, 12-2 pm
5	Fri.	1 st Friday, 9:30-11 am, TBD
7	Sun.	League Civics Bee, 2-4 pm, Weston
8-11	Mon-Thu.	Concord Town Meeting, 7 pm
12	Fri.	Education Committee, 9:30-11:00 am
12	Fri.	Carlisle Warrant posted and mailed
16	Tue.	Town Government Committee, 2-4 pm
22	Mon.	Carlisle Finance Comm. Hearing, 7-9 pm
25	Thu.	Agenda Setting Committee, 10 am - noon
29	Mon.	Carlisle Annual Town Meeting, 7 pm

MAY

1	Wed.	Board Meeting, 9:30-12 pm
3	Fri.	1 st Friday, 9:30-11 am, TBD
7	Tue.	Carlisle Town Election
10	Fri.	Education Committee, 9:30-11:30 am
13	Mon.	Observer Corps, 7:30-9 pm
14	Tue.	Town Government Committee, 2-4 pm
22	Wed.	LWVCC Annual Meeting
23	Thu.	Agenda Setting Committee, 10 am – noon

JUNE

7-8	Fri-Sat.	LWVMA State Convention, Westford
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Members are welcome at monthly Board meetings.

Please contact the President if you would like to attend.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Truth matters. We are living in a time when discerning truth, midst a blizzard of tweets and verbal assertions, requires diligent thoughtfulness and resilience. Reading broadly, myriad sources; listening to podcasts that probe information; watching or listening to preferred broadcasts absorb - each absorbs considerable time. On a local level, attending meetings, watching

committee sessions on Minuteman Media Network, and studying budget books provide perspective and information but once again take time. One might ask: "Why is this sort of serious study worthwhile or important?" Because forming independent, insightful perspectives requires deliberate, careful attention.

For example, as our towns face upcoming Town Meetings, it behooves each of us to study the warrant articles and parse their implications. In Concord, the Warrant is once again replete with important issues. At stake are our future tax burden and the measure of our generosity to each other. Specifically, there are future capital expenditures - from town to school needs; there are also new opportunities to support affordable housing initiatives. In the end, can all of these needs be met simultaneously? If not, what can be placed on hold? If held, what are the implications? Is each initiative a "need" or a "want"? When seeking a perspective, is it one's personal bottom line that matters, others' burdens, or the overall debt burden of our Town? These are challenging issues. [To date, the Carlisle Warrant has not yet been published.]

Concord town leaders have been incredibly willing to discuss their concerns and their interests in specific warrant articles through public hearings and gatherings with the League. Independent study efforts by League subcommittees of the Education Committee and the Town Government Committee have yielded considerable insights. The most recent First Friday brought together Tom McKean, Tom Tarpey, Todd Benjamin, Bob Grom, Heather Bout, and Laurie Hunter to discuss the complexity of the upcoming votes on articles at Concord's Town Meeting, which runs April 8-11. We remain indebted to their approachability and openness.

Nonetheless, resolution by our Board will not be easy as we develop consensus for recommendations to the Town Meeting. Truth matters, but different perspectives can honorably compete with each other. It is such complexity that ultimately makes politics challenging and fascinating. I look forward to seeing you at the Town Meeting beginning April 8.

Respectfully,

Diane Proctor
President, LWVCC

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Anne Hayden



MEMBERSHIP

Have you renewed your LWVCC membership? We hope you want to maintain your membership so that you will be regularly updated on our activities, informed about current issues through Monday Member News and the Bulletin, and involved in the League activities and concerns that are important to you. You can renew your membership through PayPal on our League website or you can send a check for dues (\$55 for single membership, \$80 for household membership) to LWVCC Treasurer, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA 01742. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: Membership@LWVCC.org. Anne Hayden, Membership Chair.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee meets monthly on Friday mornings, usually the second Friday of the month. The Education Committee follows the work of the School Committees.

- Teams from Concord, Weston, Sudbury, and Wayland have formed for the 11th Annual League of Women Voters Civics Bee, to be held on Sunday, April 7, 2-4 pm., Weston High School, 444 Wellesley Street, Weston. Concord will send one team consisting of 8th graders, high school students, and adults to test their knowledge of government at the federal, state, and local levels. This is the first time Concord has participated in the Civics Bee.

The Education Budget Subcommittee (Diane Proctor, Julie Rohwein, and Edie Lipinski) reviewed the School's budget books



- The Concord Middle School Facilities Planning Committee met February 28 to discuss how to align educational vision and design elements into a new middle school, to be based on 21st century teaching and learning themes. These themes include four critical areas for development (collaboration and teamwork, creativity and imagination, critical thinking, and problem solving) and are based on the education tool, *Envision Education*, <https://www.envisionexperience.com/blog/13-essential-21st-century-skills-for-todays-students>. For more information please contact Edie at education@lwvcc.org. *Edie Lipinski, Education Committee Chair.*

IMMIGRATION

On January 17th the Immigration Committee met with the Communications Director of MIRA, the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. MIRA is a coalition of 130 Massachusetts organizations concerned with immigrant rights. MIRA connects, informs, and empowers member organizations, uniting them behind common causes. It is focusing on legislation to enable all qualified drivers regardless of immigration status, to obtain drivers’

The Immigration Committee met at the Fowler Library, Concord



licenses. MIRA’s top priority is the Safe Communities Act. Both of these bills are supported by our legislators, Senator Mike Barrett and Representative Tami Gouveia.

MIRA works to protect DACA (the Dreamers) and TPS (immigrants with Temporary Protected Status). In addition, they train volunteers who assist immigrants to prepare applications for citizenship. Volunteer opportunities can be found at www.miracoalition.org.

The LWVCC Immigration Committee meets monthly to learn more about local organizations that are helping immigrants living in this area. For more information please contact Nancy at immigration@lwvcc.org. *Nancy Cronin, Immigration Committee Chair.*

Judy Zaunbrecher welcomed the audience



VOTER SERVICE

The Concord candidate forum for the Concord Town election was held Sunday, March 17, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. All candidates for Select Board, Town Moderator, Concord Housing Authority, and School Committee participated and presented their views to the audience, who submitted questions to the moderator, Margaret Coppe of the Lexington League of Women Voters.

The event was videotaped by Minuteman Media Network and is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a77bGqtYHYs>. The Concord Town Election is Tuesday, March 26, and the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please contact Judy Zaunbrecher at

VoterService@lwvcc.org if you would like to volunteer for other voter service opportunities.
Judy Zaunbrecher, Voter Service Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS

The main focus of Communications over the past month has been fairly routine, such as providing publicity for First Friday and the upcoming Candidate Forum. Thanks to Cynthia's efforts, Monday Member News continues to be the main avenue for League information, but we are striving to make the website an up to date and current place to go for information. At the last meeting of the Communications Committee, Launa Zimmaro suggested that we explore

Nancy Brown, with her husband Bob Brown at the Winter Breakfast



developing public service announcements (PSAs). Karlen ran with the idea and produced a splendid PSA on voting for the upcoming election. A link to this PSA can be found on the League website. We also reviewed the procedural documents pertaining to communications and concluded that other than some minor technical changes, the existing documents do not require revision. *Nancy Brown, Communications Chair.*

LWVCC BOOK GROUP

Our next book selections for May are *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham and *The Common Good* by Robert Reich. Mr. Meacham explores extremism and racism that have infected our politics, while Mr. Reich writes about the effects of globalization on

The Book Group in March read "The Moth Snowstorm"



work and growing inequality. Those discussion meetings will be set for a later date in May. Our final book series in June will cover an author's talk with Nancy Shohet West and Erica Morrison about Ms. West's work, *A Bicycling Life: A Memoir of Erica Morrison*. Born into a family of Dutch aristocrats in 1925, Ms. Morrison, now a Concord resident, thrived in early years, only to encounter the severe challenges of World War II, the German occupation, and the Dutch Hunger Winter. Those discussion meetings will be set for a later date in June.

The LWVCC Book Group selects books that focus on topics on current issues or local interest. Our discussions are always lively and informative. This year the Steering Committee has included both nonfiction and fiction book suggestions for some of the meetings with the expectation that this will enable attendees to more fully explore these important topics. LWVCC Book Group meetings are open to all. *Anne Hayden, Janet Miller, Diane Proctor and Mary Sterling, Book Group Steering Committee.*

LWVCC OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS

Janet Rothrock



The League Observer Corps monitors about 20 town and school committees. The League needs Observers for four committees. Their meeting times and locations are: Historic Districts Commission (2nd, 4th Tuesdays, 7 pm, 141 Keyes Road), CCHS Campus Oversight Subcommittee (various times and locations), School Budget Subcommittee (various times, Ripley conference room), and Zoning Board of Appeals (2nd Thursdays, 7:30 pm, 141 Keyes Road).

The Observer Corps also seeks additional substitute Observers. *Janet Rothrock, Observer Corps Chair, jrothrock@hyraxes.com*

David Quimby



Planning Board

January 22, 2019, 7:00 pm. Concord Long Range Plan (CLRP) Smart Growth Analysis presentation and discussion. Chair introduced the subject by describing how Smart Growth could help the Planning Board in addressing CLRP goals such as vitality/vibrancy of village centers and fiscal sustainability. Sue Kim, CivicMoxie Envision Concord project manager, presented, with support from consultant Karl Seidman.

Presentation content is drawn from the CLRP. Chair said Smart Growth appendix to Comprehensive Long Range Plan (CLRP)

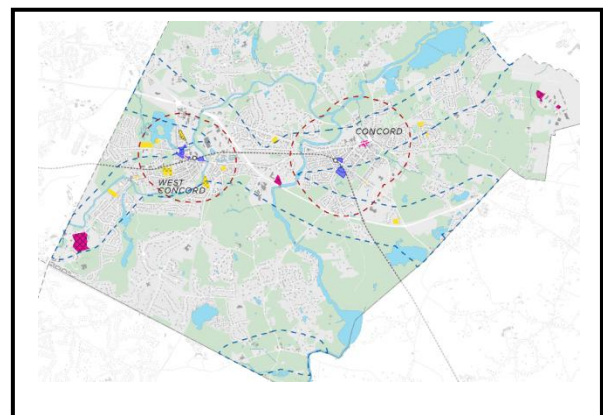
is online (observer assumes Chair refers to

<https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15247/APPENDIX-D---Smart-Growth-Analysis-Supplement-rev20180730>).

Residential

Traditional build-out analysis: where is development possible under existing policies? Smart Growth analysis in the CLRP focused on village centers and existing commercial/industrial clusters, as shown in the following map, with the goal of leveraging existing infrastructure (for example, putting development at edges of town strains resources, such as emergency response). The village centers have a half-mile radius.

Wetlands, conservation, protected lands excluded, including 100-year flood plain, but not 500-year. Most properties are privately owned, and planners did not discuss with owners. What could be done with zoning changes or policy changes? Identified four types of potential residential growth sites within the focus areas, shown with cumulative number of sites.



A: existing zoning	86			
B: 2+ acre sites, cut minimum parcel size by 50		130		
C: Pocket neighborhood (Riverwalk model).			145	
D: Brookside Square model.				372

Ms. Ferguson asked how does a pocket neighborhood compare to a planned residential development (PRD)? Discussion, including references to cottage-style zoning (small houses, small lots) and PRD requirement of preserving open space.

Ms. Kim said that the analysis was land-based, no time frame assumed, and observed that Concord’s permitting has been slow and steady. Mr. Johnson pointed out the permitting data is not net-net, because some permits are for tear-downs. Thoreau Depot subarea: possible candidate for redevelopment as mixed-use. West

Concord Village Master Plan already exists; planners looked at it through the Smart Grown lens. Mr. Johnson asked about multi-family units in A and AA zoning. Ms. Kim said they think more multi-family is desirable for seniors.

Commercial (based on existing zoning) Ms. Kim noted that the Starnet site is far for emergency responders, less interesting for residential purposes – anecdotal reports that Concord Mews residents have difficulty getting to Concord centers, more likely to go to Maynard. Maybe move things here that don’t need to be near town center, such as the Concord Public Works material storage.

Monument Street – agreed.

Town Planner unrolled plan and explained it to the Planning Board. Brief discussion.

Formula Business Bylaw (FBB) presentation - Ms. Ferguson: do people know what “formula business” means? Maybe put definition and examples earlier in the presentation.

Discussion about various “what-ifs”, leading to the conclusion that public may need to be re-introduced to these issues that were thoroughly discussed at the time of the West Concord FBB.

Liaison & staff - Chair attended the Climate Action Advisory Board meeting last week, reported interesting discussion of big-ticket items and sustainable landscaping, which may have overlap with Planning Board. Massachusetts has a base energy code (updated every 3 years) as well as a 20% better stretch code that municipalities can choose to adopt, based on judgment of factors such as affordability, but not on scientific analysis. Ms. Ferguson: is there any analysis of square foot growth vs. energy growth? Response: none known. Ms. Kaufman reported a grant is likely from the state and will be used to develop a long range plan for the study.

Public comment – None. *David Quimby, Observer*

Natural Resources Commission

Date of Meeting: 12/5/18. Topics discussed and outcome, including votes: Prior to opening and after adjournment there was a conversation about their visit to the film site of “Little Women.” The structures are to come down next week and commissioners would like to identify a place to have materials recycled. DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Discussion with Rod and Gun Club. Commissioning of the USS Hudner – pictures taken by Sandy Smith in Concord and Boston

were shown. OPENED AND CONTINUED TO DEC. 19, NO DISCUSSION TONIGHT - Main St. - Moved by Lynn Huggins, passed.

NEW APPLICATIONS - Fairhaven Hill Rd. (Concord Land Conservation Trust) – Ms. Huggins recused. Completed the house study. They tried to save the barn, but think it better to demolish it and a pumphouse. Also a concrete slab will be removed. It is in the 100 ft. buffer. Jeff Adams moved, three remaining Commissioners assented.

Clare Gordon



Lowell Rd. - The existing septic system back of the house is in the 50 ft. buffer and drains into the 25 ft. buffer. They propose replacing the septic to the front of the house as shown on a map. They also want to take sick trees out of the 50 ft. zone. Invasives were noted when Lori Capone walked the site. Bittersweet, buckthorn and honeysuckle will be removed with the trees. Hand pulled if possible and replaced with native plants, say commissioners. Mr. Adams moved for a negative determination with a preconstruction site visit required and a letter that all conditions were followed at the conclusion. Ms. Huggins amended to require a record of replacement of invasives with all native plantings. Amendment and main motion approved by all present.

Lowell Rd. - Applicant requests permission to demolish a garage and construct a new one and to reconfigure the driveway. The new garage and drive will be further from the river as on the map shown. Greg Higgins suggested tighter erosion control and applicant agreed to do so. Ed Nardi moved to approve with findings A, B and C, standard conditions 1-19, and special conditions 20-44. Passed by all.

EXTENSION REQUEST - Main St. (Concord Greene) - Solitude presenter (she was not the same person who had previously presented a report of water quality of the ponds) said her firm will be changing the monitoring. Mr. Higgins said they previously received a spreadsheet that was difficult to analyze and they had asked for some education. What are the outliers and what do they mean? For example, is there something coming from parking, banks, etc.? The answer was that the numbers are similar to other runoff. Adams asked what is the purpose of the extension? Delia Kaye said when the permit was issued there was a question of the impact on the ponds. Sampling at different times is needed – nitrates, phosphorus, turbidity, etc. When there is stormwater, solids, dissolved solids, alkalinity, wastewater parameters. Nothing has been drafted as to the requirements. Commissioners decided to defer action until a statement has been drafted.

EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION - Cambridge Turnpike – Ms. Kaye gave the narrative and showed pictures. At 6:45 AM last week, an oil truck was coming into town, slipped on black ice and overturned into wetland. The Department of Environmental Protection took pictures and it was also on Channel 10 News. The driver was taken to Lahey hospital. There was about 50 gal. of diesel and 10 gal. of hydraulic fluid spilled. Pads were thrown in to take up the oil and there is

no evidence it went downstream; water is not moving there. They had to get a crane to lift the wires to get the truck out. Contaminated soils will have to be removed. Commissioners were asked to ratify this. All were in favor.

CLOSE AND ISSUE PERMITS - Elm St. & Crescent Rd. - (No discussion.) Mr. Adams moved with findings A-D, regular conditions 1-19, special conditions 20-45. Passed by all. Derby St. CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE - Ridgeway Rd. – Ms. Kaye said fence was moved, replaced with arborvitae. Mr. Adams moved, passed by all. Heaths Bridge Rd. - River is at top of road. They rebuilt somewhat smaller. Mr. Adams moved, passed by all.

OTHER BUSINESS Administrative Approvals - Great Meadows Rd. A propane line was moved out of the buffer from inside. A 4’x9’ concrete pad is needed for an emergency generator is outside the 50 ft. line. There will be a 3000 gal. tank where an oil tank was removed. It is OK with the Fire Dept. Propane is being used while Gas Co. strike/lockout continues. Gifford Lane. Pictures were shown of a door with a step down below grade. Owners want to grade the land away from the door for gravity drainage. The land is very flat there. Commissioners discussed the grading and decided it should be possible. They should be clear that all drained water must stay on their property. ADJOURNED. *Clare Gordon, Observer.*

Ardis Bordman



CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Town Elections Update: The Town Election is March 26, and the typical Concord voter turnout is, unfortunately, less than 4% of the registered Concord voters, according to the Town Clerk’s office. In an effort to increase participation in this election, the League sponsored a candidate forum March 17 at the Harvey Wheeler Center in Concord.

The League also created a public service

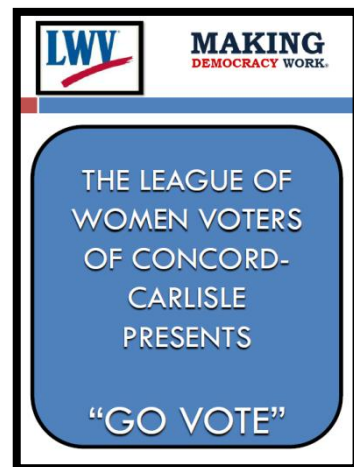
announcement, “Go Vote,” which is now posted on the Town’s public access channel. Here is the link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKq352An5js>.

Edie Lipinski explained a School Article at the Town Government Committee meeting



Town Meeting Update:

The Town of Concord will hold its Town Meeting from April 8 – 11, 2019, at the Concord-Carlisle High School auditorium. New for the Town



Meeting process will be the assembly's use of a "clicker" for electronic voting on the second night of Town Meeting. The Town Government Committee welcomes members who want to drop in when they can and those who want to follow all the local government developments, especially during town meeting time. Join us in the Trustees Room, Concord Main Library, from 2-4 pm on April 16 and May 14. *Ardis Bordman, Concord Town Government Committee Chair.*

TOWN MANAGER SEARCH UPDATE

The search for a new Town Manager continues. The Town's consultants, Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI), reviewed through the many applications it has received through its outreach and ads. The most qualified candidates will receive essay questions written by the search committee with guidance from the consultants and informed by input from Concord citizens during various forums and interviews. The search committee will meet in early April to review the resumes, essay responses, and any other materials that have been provided from the top candidates (roughly 15-20). A narrowed field (the top 6-8 semifinalists) will be personally interviewed in late April. The goal is to provide the Select Board with three to four finalists for their consideration at a public hearing on Saturday, April 27. As the hiring authority, the Select Board will make the final decision. *Karlen Reed.*

CARLISLE INITIATIVES

LWVCC CARLISLE TOWN GOVERNMENT REPORT- March 2019

The Carlisle Town Government Initiative (TGI) Group has changed its regular Meeting time to the **Second Friday** of the month from 9-11 a.m. in the Nickles Room, Carlisle Town Hall. Notices will be posted to the group on the Carlisle Group Facebook page and via email.

CARLISLE CANDIDATE FORUM - Scheduled for Sunday, April 28, 3-5 pm, Clark Room, Carlisle Town Hall. Related date: Carlisle Caucus Friday Mar 29.

UPDATE - TGI has submitted the **Rotary Sign Proposal** to the Carlisle Select Board and it was discussed as part of the Town Administrators Report on Feb 26. It has been referred to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Cindy Nock



ADVOCACY PROPOSAL - TGI attended a meeting with Claude Van Roesgen and Launa Zimmaro on Feb. 15 at the home of new member Nancy Pirman Weiss to discuss the **Pay As You Throw (PAYT)** timeline for the Carlisle Town Meeting. The group is enthusiastic about helping to promote the PAYT plan. A working group within the larger Carlisle TGI is working on the letters, articles, etc. and consists of Cindy Nock, Barbara Lewis, and Priscilla Stevens. We rely on Launa Zimmaro for fact checking. This working group is very knowledgeable about the Carlisle Community. The Carlisle Household Recycling Committee (CHRC) studied the solid waste issue over the past year and prepared a report and recommendation for PAYT to the

Carlisle Board of Selectmen. LWVCC member Launa Zimmaro is a member of the CHRC and has met several times with the Carlisle TGI group educating and gaining feedback about the report and PAYT recommendation. The Carlisle TGI group is enthusiastic about the proposal and submitted a letter to the Mosquito Editor on the proposed PAYT implementation. *Cindy Nock.*

FIRST FRIDAYS

March 1 – Warrant Review

On Friday, March 1, the League sponsored its annual Warrant Review session at the Fowler Library in West Concord from 9:15 – noon. The League heard from the Concord Finance Committee (Tom Tarpey), Select Board (Tom McKean), School Committee (Bob Grom and Heather Bout), and Affordable Housing Funding Committee (Todd Benjamin) on the issues of fiscal sustainability, Town and school spending, and housing.

Tom Tarpey explained a chart for Article 18



Ardis Bordman



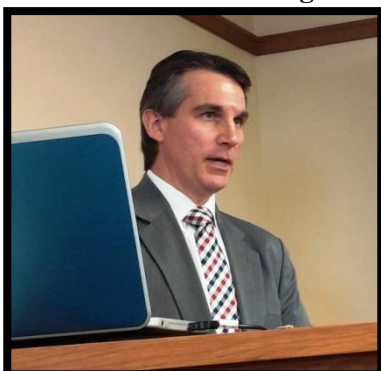
LWVCC Town Government Committee Chair Ardis Bordman challenged the speakers, asking “Can we do it all?” Mr. Tarpey, speaking to a packed audience, explained the Finance Committee (FinCom) guideline process. He noted that the increased town and school spending and their impact on the median property tax bill triggered the FinCom to propose Article 18, by which Town Meeting would direct the FinCom to create a yearly advisory sustainable growth rate based on five-year projections. Mr. McKean reviewed Article 7, municipal capital projects for FY20, including

town building renovations, park improvements, land acquisition, road reconstruction, and library furniture, fixtures, and equipment, all totaling \$3.95 million.

Bob Grom showed where paving, lighting, and parking are needed at CCHS, in Article 16



Todd Benjamin discussed affordable housing



He also acknowledged that, while future projects for municipal, public safety, and public works are part of the Town’s long term capital plan, none were as important now as building a new middle school. Reflecting on Ms. Bordman’s challenge question, Mr. McKean said it was “hard to get a consensus on the ‘must haves’ and the ‘nice to haves;’ he also observed that “long

range planning is great, but surprises happen, creating unexpected financial issues.”

Mr. Benjamin reviewed several charts on housing sale prices and income growth rates, noting the huge disparity in Concord between the two. “Housing is so expensive because the land is so expensive,” he said. He urged the audience to support the affordable housing Articles 23 (allocates \$500,000 from free cash), Article 24 (creates an Affordable Housing Trust), Article 25 (seeks special legislation for a 1% real estate transfer fee), and Article 26 (seeks special legislation for a building permit fee for affordable housing).

Ms. Bout and Mr. Grom tackled the two school capital building projects, Article 14 (\$1.5 million for a middle school feasibility study and schematic design) and Article 16 (\$2 million for paving, lighting, and additional parking at the Concord-Carlisle High School). Both Articles are debt exclusion articles, meaning the funding requests must be approved at Town Meeting and later approved at special election ballot vote. Mr. Grom said that the Regional School District is trying to replace some of the parking spaces at CCHS lost during construction of the new building. While the 104 spaces proposed under Article 16 will not solve all parking issues at CCHS, Mr. Grom said it was the best proposal, given environmental concerns, parking demands, and possible future building on the CCHS campus. Article 16, he noted, also included paving the access road and installing lights to improve pedestrian safety in the area.

Heather Bout expressed her views on Article 14



Karlen Reed

Ms. Bout answered many questions about the middle school feasibility/design study proposed in Article 14. After recounting the building histories of the Sanborn and Peabody schools and their deteriorating conditions, she focused on the timeline for the 2017 Finegold Alexander Report and facilities study and the differences between expanding Sanborn to accommodate all middle school students, versus building a new middle school. Ms. Bout cited operational efficiencies, relative costs, student and staff educational disruption, and the unlikely prospects of state reimbursement for construction. She concluded, saying “This is more cost effective overall to do this now, rather than wait.”

Nancy Beeuwkes



STATE PROGRAM AND ACTION

As follow-up to the last report, the LWVCC Board voted on a consensus report on February 6 on the 15 questions posted by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) Study of the Massachusetts ballot question process. The League’s response, along with the responses from more than 25 other Massachusetts leagues, will be discussed during the LWVMA State Annual Convention, which will be held June 7-8, 2019, at the Westford Regency Hotel in Westford, MA. The convention’s agenda will include a review and vote on the Ballot Question Process Study.

Dr. Michelle Kweder



LWVMA has a new Executive Director, Dr. Michelle Kweder. Michelle holds a B.A. in English with a concentration in Women's Studies from Hamilton College, an MBA from Simmons College, and a Ph.D. in Business Administration, Organizations and Social Change from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. For the past 11 years Michelle has had her own consulting practice working in partnership with numerous non-profit organizations in the Greater Boston area, and has held positions at both Simmons University and Harvard Law School. She is a resident of Somerville. She joined LWVMA on March

11, and will build on the work of our previous Executive Director, Meryl Kessler.



The LWVMA also has a new logo (LWVCC's version of the new logo is displayed on the front page of this issue). To learn about new developments at the state

level, and to access the LWVMA's 2019-20 Legislative and Advocacy Agenda, visit the LWVMA website at: <https://lwmma.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Advocacy-handout-2019-20.pdf>. *Nancy Beeuwkes, State Program & Action Chair*

NATIONAL PROGRAM & ACTION

The National League surveyed members' action prior to the midterm elections. Across the country, League volunteers in all 50 states worked to register, inform, and protect voters in 2018. Here are some of the highlights:

- 250,000+ voters registered in 2018
- 15,000 election-related events, contributing over 180,000 volunteer hours
- >10 million voters educated through the League's outreach and our premiere website, www.VOTE411.org
- 1.9 million voters protected through advocacy, litigation, and education efforts
- More than 1 million printed voter engagement materials distributed in our communities
- >500,000 voters directly contacted to Get Out the Vote!

Nancy Cronin



On Friday, January 4, HR1, the #ForThePeople Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill comprises a bold, transformative set of reforms to strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people. The League of Women Voters has worked to influence the language of this bill to ensure that voting rights are strengthened by this important legislation. One of the main points of HR1 is that it should be easier, not harder, to vote.

The #ForThePeople Act improves access to voting with reforms like Same Day Registration and Automatic Voter Registration. The #ForThePeople Act is a sweeping reform package that addresses everything from voting rights, to campaign finance reform, to redistricting. The measure has been passed by the House, but has not been taken up by the Senate. *Nancy Cronin, National Program & Action Chair.*

WINTER BREAKFAST WITH AVIVA CHOMSKY

On January 26 LWVCC held the annual Winter Breakfast with Aviva Chomsky, author of “They Take Our Jobs and 20 Other Myths About Immigration,” as the keynote speaker. Over 100 members and friends attended along with our State Senator Mike Barrett and our newly elected State Representative Tami Gouveia. Professor Chomsky highlighted several actions that some other states, but not Massachusetts, have done to help immigrants. These are some areas of legislative action the League could support:

The audience listened to Aviva Chomsky at the Colonial Inn, Concord



Professor Chomsky then described how the border crisis with immigrants coming from Central America to cross the border started with the history of Spaniards and later the Americans, taking natives land and making them extract their natural resources, like bananas and coffee, for the benefit of corporations and consumers. The video can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QpZck88UV8&t=4595s>. *Nancy Cronin.*

REFLECT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The February First Friday focused on Climate Change -- the greatest threat we are currently facing, what we in Concord and Carlisle have done so far, and what we need to do in the next 12 years to avert disaster. Gary Clayton, Mass Audubon President, summarized the findings of the recent report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the 4th National Climate Assessment. He briefly described what progress has been made at the national and state levels to address the challenge.

Aviva Chomsky with Nancy Cronin and Diane Proctor



- Allow undocumented immigrants to get drivers' licenses and to qualify for in-state tuition at Massachusetts state colleges, and
- Pass the Safe Communities Act – to the extent allowed by federal law, provide that federal, state, and local law enforcement officers do not become enforcers of immigration law (The League is currently working with our legislators to get this bill passed).

Gary Clayton, Kate Hanley, and Rep. Tami Gouveia answered questions from the audience



Kate Hanley, Concord's Director of Sustainability, painted a vivid and positive picture of what Concord could look like in 2030 if we address the need to decrease our use of fossil fuels. Tami Gouveia, our new State Representative, outlined this year's legislative efforts to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Kate Hanley explained the bike program



The LWVCC posed several questions followed by questions from the audience. There were far more people who wanted to attend than are able to fit in Fowler Library's downstairs conference room. We regret that some people could not hear the presentation, but we invite you to view the online video of the presentation, which is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fwz4UVKU8Q&t=6373s>. *Janet Rothrock.*

A BIT MORE:

Note: On March 14 the Concord Recreation Department held a public forum on the future development of White Pond Beach Area. This forum was held in the Harvey Wheeler Community Center and was well-attended. The forum was videotaped by Minuteman Media Network and can be viewed on-line at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDgk0e_oHRk.

Note: Remember to vote in the Concord Town Election on Tuesday, March 26, 2019. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. A sample ballot is available at: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18494/2019-03-26-Sample-Ballot>.

Note: The Town of Concord will celebrate Patriots Day 2019 with the Meriam's Corner Exercise at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 6; Patriots Day Parade on Monday, April 15 at 9 a.m., and Dawn Salute on Friday, April 19 at 6 a.m.

Note: The 2019 Annual Workbook will be released in early May in time for the May 22 Annual Meeting. All reports and photographs for the Annual Workbook are due to the Editor by April 22. Articles and photos for the Summer/June Bulletin are due by Thursday, June 6. Thank you as always to the writers, reviewers, photographers, and Observer Corps members for your contributions. *Karlen Reed, Bulletin Editor.*

**League of Women Voters of Concord Carlisle
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March Morning in Concord



SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019 – LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING