

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2025 / 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Warren Building, Room 008
The meeting was also held on Zoom

Attending: Laura Brown-Mackinnon, Marguerite Chatelier, Deb Codispoti, Irene Flint, Jessica Graham, Diane Hemond, Bonny Nothern, Ellie Perkins, Rekha Sampath

Absent: Ann-Mara Lanza, Marlene O'Brien, Rama K. Ramaswamy

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m.

1. Welcome - Bonny Nothern

- a. Bonny Nothern welcomed Irene Flint and Rekha Sampath who were attending via Zoom.
- b. Marguerite Chatelier, in lieu of a Land Acknowledgement, suggested that we commit the month of February, Black History Month, to learning more about the historical relationship between Indigenous People and Black People in the United States. She mentioned a book exploring early oil exploration on an Indigenous reservation that illuminated the interchange between the two peoples and sparked her curiosity.
- c. Bonny explained that we could join a League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) Sweatshirt Campaign as a fundraiser. If anyone is interested in spearheading this, please let Bonny know.
- d. The Acton Area League is asking for blueprints of town policies against campaign signs on public property. Wellesley's policy is stated in Town Zoning By-Laws and Bonny will share this information with the Acton League.
- e. Bonny's presentation at Dana Hall was very well received. She discussed the League, social justice, and women's suffrage. The students were very enthusiastic and 19 of them have signed up to join the League of Women Voters of Wellesley (LWVW). Unfortunately, the students will not be able to attend our Valentine's Day party as it conflicts with the celebration of a very important Dana Hall tradition.
- f. Jake Auchincloss has committed to visit Dana Hall on February 21st and Bonny will ask if he has time to visit with us around that time.
- g. Rekha Sampath volunteered to send photos for the newsletter to document both our visit to the Museum of Fine Arts and Bonny's presentation at Dana Hall.
- h. Bonny asked if we should nominate Jessica Graham as a Member at Large of the Board. Jessica accepted and we voted unanimously to have her join the Board as a Member at Large.
- i. We decided to make note in the next LWVW Newsletter of International Women's Day, March 8, 2025.
- j. The Save Act, under consideration in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, would require citizenship documentation in order to register to vote in the US: either a passport, a birth certificate, a naturalization certificate or a certificate of citizenship. If a woman has married and taken her husband's name, her birth certificate does not have her current name and would preclude her being able to vote. A passport would be more up to date, but most passport owners are in "Blue States", many fewer are in "Red States". As League members, we have been asked to call our representatives about this, even if we know our representatives are against the legislation, because they need to be able to report the numbers of constituents supporting or opposing any proposed laws or action.
- k. Bonny asked if anyone was planning to attend the Zoom meeting of the MetroWest Service Area on Saturday, February 15th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. These meetings are always inspirational and a good opportunity to share the work we are doing.
- l. The Newton League has put together a publication on How to Run for Public Office, including videos. We should look into this for ideas.
- m. Bonny recommended that we consider Ann-Mara Lanza's proposal to have a Steering Committee next year if we are unable to find a President and Co-President, as it is very difficult to be president alone.

Voted: to accept Jessica Graham as a Member at Large of the Board.

2. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Laura Brown-Mackinnon

- a. Because we had to cancel our second consensus meeting due to snow, we have rescheduled for February 27, 2025, in Warren Room 008, from 1 to 3 p.m.
- b. As an At Large Member of World of Wellesley (WOW), Marguerite reported that the WOW Board was extremely grateful for our contribution to the Martin Luther King Day Lunch expenses. Close to 200 people attended and 50 attendees were given free tickets. Rama K. Ramaswamy was grateful that the speaker, Wellesley College Professor Kelly Carter Jackson, agreed to speak for \$2500, half her usual fee.

3. Minutes of January 14, 2025, Board Meeting

- a. Laura Brown-Mackinnon moved and Deb Codispoti seconded a motion to accept the minutes of our Board Meeting on January 14, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. We discussed whether or not to have a Zoom meeting to determine the agenda each month and also whether the agenda should show time allotments for each item or section. We decided to list time allotments, but consider them a suggestion. Marguerite felt that the President, the Vice Presidents, the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as well as the Secretary should contribute to the making of each agenda and that this should be discussed in a Zoom meeting. Laura said that for those invested in a particular issue the Zoom meeting is an excellent option and mentioned that when she was president she used to sit at Cafe Nero each month to be available for discussion of the agenda.
- c. We decided that every month when the secretary sends out a request for agenda items she will ask if anyone feels the need to have a Zoom meeting. We will also highlight the open section at the end of each agenda in case additional items come up for discussion.
- d. Rehka suggested that, when we put an item on the agenda, we also indicate the goal for that discussion. If a new and/or potentially controversial item will be on the agenda, this will alert the Board and offer some further information or perhaps refer it to a future meeting in order to fully consider it. In the future, we should put a bit more explanatory information on the agenda for the sake of efficiency.
- e. Laura also suggested that we include a calendar covering the remainder of the year on each agenda.

Voted: to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2025, Board Meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report - Deb Codispoti

- a. Deb Codispoti has moved four of our CDs to Mutual One Bank where the rates are better. We are keeping one CD at Needham Bank so that our credit card will remain active.
- b. We have one CD maturing on March 10, 2025, at Mutual One. Laura moved and Diane Hemond seconded that Deb renew that CD. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Babson did not approve our request for a donation for the Vote411 postcard, but Roche Brothers (\$1500) and Jarvis (\$2000) did give us funding. Marguerite increased the amount she asked for from Jarvis and as they agreed, she recommends we try this for others in the future.. We have a request in at Mutual One for a grant to cover the rest of the postcard expense and are waiting for their response.
- d. Our January income was \$3969.83 (member dues, corporate donations and interest). Our January expenses were \$824.50 (WOW co-sponsorship, Candidates Night honoraria, Reparations Study copying). The postcard expense of \$4021 will be paid in February. Right now we are running a deficit for the year.
- e. We opened a Stripe account through ChapterSpot which will be used for dues payments.
- f. We'll still be paying Per Member Payments through July 2026, but they should be lower as our membership is lower right now.
- g. Rekha asked whether we should cover the dues of the 19 new student members from Dana Hall. Marguerite mentioned that every activity at Wellesley High School is billed and they are used to paying. Rekha wasn't sure how the Dana Hall students would feel. Laura asked if we could just sign them up for

the newsletter and keep a separate list of students, but not require them to join. Some of us felt uncomfortable beginning to charge students.

- h. We will need to do the budget soon and we will need a Budget Committee. Bonny highly recommended that people who will be in leadership positions next year be on the committee, in addition to non-Board members. Even if it will take longer with more people on the committee, it will be good for the future of the organization for more people to understand the finances. Deb will send out an email to the board asking if they are interested in being part of the committee.

Moved: to renew the CD at Mutual One coming due on March 10, 2025.

5. Voter Service - Diane Hemond

- a. All is organized for Meet the Candidates Night (MTCN), February 13, 2025. The weather looks favorable. Four Key Club students are coming from the High School to help.
- b. Challenges: There are two other MTCNs in town and that seems excessive. Seven of our 16 speakers are not coming, possibly in part because of the other events. Unfortunately, three of the four candidates for Recreation Commission will not be attending. Therefore, the Empty Chair Rule must kick in and we will have to cancel that panel. We had scheduled this panel last to entice the audience to remain for the final section. Of the two contested panels we had initially, we are down to one: for Select Board. We will tell the candidate for Recreation Commission that he is welcome to attend, and we will find out if he can read a prepared statement.
- c. Next year we will coordinate with the other town groups and attempt to be the first MTCN.
- d. Bonny will affix a QR Code for LWVW registration information on a poster for the information table.

6. Programming - Marguerite Chatelier and Irene Flint

Our Valentine's Party will be at Marguerite's house on February 15, 2025: Marguerite is not sure of the head count, but the students are getting cake, drinks and snacks and will decorate her house. Marguerite will get flowers to be made into mini bouquets as an activity and she will check with Deb to ascertain her budget.

7. Membership - Jessica Graham

- a. How will we register students? Bonny suggested that she could send the link to the 19 students from Dana Hall, because she invited them to join, and explain that they can pay from \$20 to \$75. We decided to discuss the entire issue of charging students before going forward with this.
- b. The Roster section of ChapterSpot is in good shape. We can now see about 50 members and about 100 inactive members with accessible accounts, pending payments, expiration dates, etc. Join dates, however, have disappeared and we will need to look into this.
- c. ChapterSpot's registration section includes the possibility of asking a few questions. Jessica has revised and condensed the questions we previously asked and handed out a draft for us to consider. We decided to go with her draft, after minimal edits and consider revising it at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellie Perkins, Secretary