

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022 / 12:40-2:36 p.m.
6 Monroe Road

●
Attending: Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Marguerite Chatelier, Irene Flint, Wendy Harris Garber, Erry Johnson, Ann-Mara Lanza, Bonny Nothern, Ellie Perkins, Jenny Zannetos

Absent: Margie Palladino, Ivy Wang

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. by President [Wendy Garber](#). A quorum was present.

1. Welcome - Wendy

- a. Irene read a land acknowledgement prepared by a committee she co-leads at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills. She also showed us an impressive brochure prepared by the committee detailing the history of Native Americans living in our area.
- b. Other town and local efforts to explore local Native American history were mentioned, in addition to a Wellesley Free Library meeting about the Chinese-American experience in Wellesley.

2. Minutes, September 13, 2022

- a. There were no corrections to the minutes of our Board meeting on September 13, 2022. A motion was made by Bonny and seconded by Laura to approve the minutes. The motion carried.
- b. **VOTED:** to approve the September 13, 2022, minutes.

3. Treasurer's Report - Jenny

- a. LWVW net assets as of September 30, 2022, total \$30,300.58.
- b. Income during the last month includes dues from two new members. The LWVMA thanked us for our contribution of \$300.00.

4. Programming - Irene

- a. We had a good turnout at our first coffee with Mary Beth Martello, 21 attendees.
- b. Our next coffee will be Friday, October 14, with Megan Jop and colleagues discussing the Town Hall interior renovation project. Wendy will open the meeting and will also mention upcoming League events.
- c. Ann-Mara announced that Megan Jop will also be speaking on Sunday, October 16, for Building a Better Wellesley and will discuss MBTA communities, addressing new regulations on housing near transit. This event is in line with our positions on housing and climate action work. We have advertised it in our newsletter and we should continue to advertise it, perhaps with an announcement at our next coffee.

- d. Our coffee on January 20, 2023, will take place in person at Susan Clapham's house from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Michael Reidy from the High School will talk about their civics education program. An Evite will be sent out for this coffee.
- e. The Opening Meeting flier is ready. This will be a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, November 9th, at 7 p.m, open to the entire community. Ann-Mara asks us to publicize it now to our contacts and on FaceBook. Erry has informed the Board of Health and the Health Department. It is important for all of us to go to our LWVW Facebook page often and to like and share the postings about our upcoming events.
- f. On November 4, 2022, Deborah Brown from Swellesley will join us for a coffee on Zoom, 10 to 11 a.m.
- g. In January or February, the World of Wellesley (WOW) Community Read will feature Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America. WOW is trying to get the author, Ari Berman to come, but he charges \$15,000. The Board discussed cosponsoring or collaborating with them, but we agreed that we would not contribute to this fee. We question the need for the author to speak as local experts could easily be invited to guide the discussion at no or little cost. It was suggested that Deed McCollum might come to one of our Board meetings to discuss this as she has been our liaison with WOW. It would be good for her to have a better understanding of our concerns and procedures.
- h. The Board reviewed our policy on paying speakers: we do not have a budget to pay speakers for coffees; we do on occasion offer honoraria for major events like the Opening Meeting.
- i. Prior to each event Laura will post details in the newsletter, send out an email, and then send an email blast with a registration link prior to the event. We will try to send a reminder with the Zoom link shortly before events.

5. President's Update - Wendy

- a. Sue Gibbons, the leader of a Wellesley Girl Scout troop asked if her scouts could work with us in some way as they complete their Government Patch. Suggestions: Susan Clapham worked with scouts in the past and should have ideas/advice; Erry once made a presentation to middle schoolers on government and can share slides; perhaps the scouts could observe at some stage of election voting in November (KC Kato, our Town Clerk, is a League member).
- b. Ann-Mara wanted to follow up on a Wellesley Climate Action question raised by Mary Beth Martello during her coffee: would we become a Climate Action Organization? This would entail publicizing what they are doing, sharing on social media and/or our newsletter their notices announcing events and information/advice about the environment. We don't have a local position on the environment, although it has been a priority for us in determining some of our positions. However, this seems to align with State and National League positions. We do sometimes list community events and we could perhaps include notices or announcements like these in a

corner of our newsletter. We could support efforts that fit our voter education goals and/or we could include a link to their website. We agreed we should let them know we support this in concept, but are leery about the details. Could we support educating people about anything that requires a vote or voter education and promote some of their programming, but not promise to promote everything? We might need to discuss and take a vote as a Board on promoting some issues.

- c. Because of our concern for environmental issues, we will consider asking candidates about climate action at our Meet the Candidates event.
- d. The Sharfman Grant was on the agenda for discussion, but Wendy recommended that we consider it for a future year. Jenny confirmed that we don't have a current need.
- e. If Board members need to be reimbursed by Jenny, they need to include receipts for whatever was purchased.

6. Voter Services - Erry

- a. Our High School Voter Registration Drive on September 20th had to be canceled as three of our four volunteers got Covid or were exposed to it. It has been rescheduled to October 18, 2022, with three new volunteers: Susan Gray, Sue Mangiacotti, and Bea Bezmalinovic.
- b. We should spread the word about the Candidate Forums and the Referendum Forums, all advertised on our website and Facebook page.
- c. The Town Meeting prep session is October 20 and it will be organized by Barbara McMahon.
- d. We are still looking for someone to coordinate the Vote signs process.
- e. Marguerite is organizing rides to the polls on election day. These will be mainly for students from Babson and Wellesley Colleges, because townspeople can use Catch Connect or rides offered by the Council on Aging. If anyone can be available to take calls, please let Marguerite know.
- f. Ivy and Skye, as League members and Town Meeting Members, have given themselves the mandate to educate Wellesley High School students about town government. They are educating and organizing a student group and will work with Niki on a video to promote the student membership drive. They are aware of Needham High School's League of Women Voters Club which organizes voter registration there.
- g. Erry found a page of the Wellesley Phone Book that describes our League and it would need to be updated if it is still published. It appears that the Wellesley Home Magazine has replaced the Wellesley Phone Book and this publication does not include a page about the LWVW.
- h. The Candidate Handbook update is proceeding well.
- i. How to Run for Office on December 1, 2022, will be a Zoom meeting as will Meet the Candidates Night on February 16, 2023.

7. Additional Comments

- a. We are considering changing our evening meeting time from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. to 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Wendy would like to limit the evening meeting to an hour and a half and to keep the dates as they are on our schedule now, except that the February meeting should be the 14th (listed incorrectly on the recent schedule). Wendy will check with Margie and Ivy and then will confirm future evening meeting hours.
- b. Niki reported that our membership now stands at 143, with 116 primary members, 13 additional household members, 7 lifetime members, and 7 student members. The email renewal reminders and additional reminders will go out as previously reported.
- c. Ann-Mara is concerned that voting has shifted from Fiske and Schofield to Warren because this affects our most vulnerable neighbors who can no longer walk easily to the polls. The town decided not to hold early voting at Barton Road without first doing a study, although this would have addressed the issue. It seems as if, in general, we are making it more difficult to vote in Wellesley. We decided to offer Barton Road residents early voting and Election Day rides to the polls. Catch Connect also offers free rides.

Reminder: Our next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, on Zoom, tentatively from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Perkins
Secretary