

Approved: June 4, 2018

Board of Selectmen Meeting: May 14, 2018

Present: Gibbs, Freiman, Sullivan Woods, Morgan, Ulfelder

Also Present: Robinson

Warrants approved:

Minutes approved:

Meeting Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Warrant for Special Town Meeting

1. Call to Order and Citizen Speak

Ms. Gibbs, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Ulfelder reminded the Board that the upcoming weekend is the Wellesley Wonderful Weekend; Friday, May 18 through Sunday, May 20. On Saturday, May 19 at 3:30 pm there will be a rededication of the Wellesley WWI Memorial at Memorial Grove honoring WWI veterans. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wellesley Veterans Parade and the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.

Citizens Speak:

Mr. McCauley, Town Meeting Moderator, came before the Board to ask that at a future meeting the Board consider an item to discuss a policy regarding the Town Meeting Members listserve. He stated that concerns have been raised that the listserve has become a discussion forum and this was compromising its original purpose as a notification system. He plans to work with the Town Clerk to restore the listserve to its original notice provision. He added that he would like to have further discussions with the Town Clerk, Board of Selectmen, and Town Counsel regarding how to deal with discussion aspects that have been requested. He added that he believes it is important to restrict the use temporarily and discuss how to go forward appropriately. Ms. Freiman supported using the listserve as a one-way communication tool and believes discussion should take place on the floor of Town Meeting. Mr. McCauley noted that due to the discussions that are happening some Town Meeting Members have asked to be removed from the listserve which he believes threatens its integrity. He believed there is a way to have discussions appropriately at Town Meeting.

Ms. Cort, precinct B and new Town Meeting Member addressed the Board and stated she appreciates getting thoughts from other Town Meeting Member via email. She has found the discussions via email a helpful way to receive additional information regarding issues at Town Meeting.

Mr. Berry, precinct B a Town Meeting Member, wanted to inform the Board that Precinct B was not included in discussions that took place over the previous weekend. He added that the precinct was listed as a recipient on the email but list was blank.

Ms. Robinson informed the Board that 123 applications had been received for the project and communication officer position. There will be two rounds of interviews that will include different staff members from the organization.

2. Reopen Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Morgan provided an update of events from the past few weeks. He invited School Committee Members to join the Board for the discussion. Ms. Gray, Ms. Martin, Mr. Kelley and Dr. Lussier joined the Board. Since the opening of the warrant for the June Special Town Meeting there had been many discussions with the Advisory Committee and comments received from public hearings. The Town had discussions with the MSBA that were insightful in understanding their processes and objectives, and the MSBA understands the Town's needs. Mr. Morgan noted that at the Board of Selectmen retreat it was suggested that the Town may be better served by delaying consideration of article two from June to a fall Special Town Meeting, currently targeted for early October. He added that a delay will not have a detrimental effect on the MSBA process. If article two is delayed the community will continue to receive updates from the Selectmen and School Building Committee. He then asked if any members from the School Committee wished to comment on delaying article two to the fall.

Ms. Gray stated the School Committee had discussions regarding this issue and in her opinion the committee had weighed the pros and cons of a delay but had not come to a final decision. Ms. Martin added that the committee had discussed that a delay would allow the committee to continue to have the opportunity to provide updates and information to the community and Town Meeting Members.

Ms. Sullivan Woods asked if there would be additional outreach to the community and what the approach might be. She also asked if it would be possible to offer tours of the schools to provide an overview of what the facilities currently look like and what is envisioned for the future. Ms. Gray stated that it is a complex process and the community has many questions. She added the committee had been to PTO meetings and would continue to do so to provide any additional information. She noted that there have also been School Committee office hours and several layers of communications to receive feedback. There are planned tours for Town Meeting Members and will be for others as well.

The Boards continued to discuss the merits of postponing article two of the warrant to a fall Special Town Meeting. Points of discussion included the funding of the projects, communication to the community, access to information from the MSBA, and realistic expectations the Town should have of the MSBA.

Mr. Ulfelder stated that while article two will not have enough questions answered in time for the June Special Town Meeting, article three is an independent Town project and should be considered in June rather than the fall. Mr. Morgan added that postponing article three would impact the schedule of the project as the first part of the feasibility study includes field work. Mr. Kelley noted that if the Hunnewell project is delayed the work could overlap with the MSBA work.

The Boards discussed moving forward with Article three for the June Special Town Meeting and the overall Hunnewell project. Points of discussion included the overall plan for the Hunnewell project as well as the clarity of questions and answers for the project. Ms. Gray stated that a tour of Hunnewell would be held for Town Meeting Members on May 24th followed by a presentation and a questions and answers discussion period.

Mr. Morgan invited audience members to come forward and address the Boards regarding the June Special Town Meeting.

Ms. Cort of precinct B came before the Board stated her concerns of separating the articles and believed it would be best to have one Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Mr. Martin of 11 Bayview Road, precinct B and a Town Meeting member, stated he thought article two should be delayed and would like further details regarding the feasibility study for article three.

Mr. Roberti, precinct B, stated that at a recent Advisory Meeting he stated he believed it had been agreed upon by the Town that the Hunnewell project should move forward in June and hold off on H.U. portion. He had heard from many people with their concerns regarding article three including leadership and communication. After hearing concerns, he raised further questions and now believed that article three should be delayed until the fall.

Ms. Fico, precinct A, a Town Meeting Member, stated that she was in favor of moving the June Special Town Meeting to the fall to consider both article two and three. She expressed concern having a push for the Hunnewell project without reviewing other projects.

Mr. Tobin, precinct G, a Town Meeting Member, stated he wished to highlight the previous comments regarding pushing for the Hunnewell project and agreed with others that article three should also be delayed until the fall.

Ms. Freiman asked to know the School Committee would vote regarding article two prior to the Selectmen vote for the article. She stated it was important that the community know the Selectmen and the School Committee are working together. The School Committee voted unanimously to postpone article two until a Special Town Meeting in the fall.

The Board reviewed the language used in reopening the warrant and the importance of keeping the article numbers in place to avoid confusion when discussing the articles in the future.

Upon a motion by Ms. Freiman and seconded by Mr. Morgan, the Board voted (5-0) to re-open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for June 5, 2018

Upon a motion by Ms. Freiman and seconded by Mr. Morgan, the Board voted (5-0) to remove article two by strikethrough from the warrant and keep the remaining numbers in place for the remaining articles.

Upon a motion by Ms. Freiman and seconded by Mr. Morgan, the Board voted (5-0) to close the warrant for the June 5, 2018 Special Town Meeting

3. New Business and Correspondence

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.