

Advisory Committee
September 18, 2013
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

Marjorie Freiman called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included Bob Capozzi, Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Becky Epstein, Tom Frisardi, Ann-Marie Gross, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, and Mason Smith.

Orientations

Ms. Freiman acknowledged the Wellesley Police Department has received State certification from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. She congratulated Chief Cunningham and the Police Department for this honor.

Planning Department Overview

Meghan Jop, Planning Director, accompanied by Jeanne Conroy, Chair, provided a brief history and responsibilities of the department, its organizational structure, and its duties as authorized under Article 45, Section 3 of the Town Bylaw. Ms. Jop summarized specific programs undertaken and accomplishments of the past year and anticipated projects and goals for the future. She also described the Comprehensive Plan and outlined the studies undertaken recently including large house, site plan, design and construction project reviews.

Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Overview

Jack Stewart, Chair, as well as Owen Dugan and Paul Criswell from the Municipal Light Plant Board, gave the presentation. They were accompanied by Richard Joyce, Director and Debra Healy, Business Manager of the Municipal Light Plant. Mr. Stewart discussed the mission statement including the objectives of reliable energy service, competitive rates and financial benefits to the Town. Mr. Stewart reviewed the historical energy usage from 1997 through FY13 including operating expenses and other key statistical components. A review of the number of employees in the department, transmission costs, reliability measures, winter strategies, and residential survey results were also shared.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Overview

Paul Criswell, David Donohue and Owen Dugan reviewed the organization of the department including site maps, union and non-union employee statistics and the various divisions that comprise the DPW. They were accompanied by Mike Pakstis, Director, and David Cohen, Assistant Director of the DPW. Funding including sources and uses were outlined. An overview of the operating and capital budgets including tax impact programs and enterprise funding were also discussed with Advisory members. Management appraisals including benchmarking goals were outlined, as were operating challenges and accomplishments.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

Fiscal Year Project Updates

Fuller Brook Park – Lucy Kapples provided a brief update including acknowledgement of increasing costs which resulted in the project being reviewed over the summer to

ensure only necessary components are included. This review resulted in a decrease in estimated costs to approximately 5.3 million. She stated that site reviews had been completed and the permitting process on the State level is going well. The town permitting process required additional meetings with the Wetland Protection Committee and the project was approved at their last meeting. The ZBA will review the project at their meeting on Thursday.

Tolles Parsons Senior Center – Ann Marie Gross updated Advisory on the current status including the recent traffic hearings which resulted in the Board of Selectmen asking for nine recommendations to the Planning Board. They will meet on Monday, September 23 to vote on the recommendations.

Hills Branch Library Chimney – Deb Robi provided an update. She stated the bidding process had been completed and a contract had been awarded. Construction will start in about three weeks and should be completed in eighty days or less. Parking is a consideration during this period.

Update on Articles Anticipated for Special Town Meeting in December

Ms. Freiman mentioned there were no new items added at this time, but there is a possibility of a few changes and the addition of some administrative Articles. The warrant will be closing soon.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Lucy Kapples to approve the minutes of September 11, 2013. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Liaison Reports

Various members of the Advisory Committee provided their liaison reports.

New Business

There was no new business presented for review.

Announcements

Ms. Freiman advised the yearly calendar updates could be found in Drop box.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m. with no objections.