

Advisory Committee
October 9, 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 Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Becky Epstein, Tom Frisardi, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

Fuller Brook Park Update

Rose Mary Donahue, Katherine Babson, Bob White and David Wright, members of the Fuller Brook Park Coordinating Committee, and Steve Fader, Project Manager, were present for the update. The presentation included a review of the committee, history of the program and design phases, updated progress including special studies completed, permitting issues and future goals and plans. The project design is currently over 60% completed and the third phase will be submitted to the public for review. Tours will be offered on Saturday, October 19th at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 20th at 1:00 p.m. The committee plans to use multimedia outlets to inform Town Meeting members and residents about the project as well. Additional design and permitting costs were incurred by the addition of the dredging of the State Street Pond to the scope of this project as well as other cost overrides from the original budget. There were additional challenges with the wetlands permitting and violations were incurred. The committee is seeking an additional \$40,000 in funding to cover cost overruns and see the project to completion with construction bids for the project at Annual Town Meeting.

Community Preservation Committee Overview

This item was withdrawn from the agenda due to a conflict in scheduling. There were no objections and the item will be brought back at another date.

Sustainable Energy Committee Overview

Ellen Korpi, Chair of the Sustainable Energy Committee and Ellen Gibbs, Member of the Board of Selectmen, gave the presentation. Ms. Korpi discussed the role of the committee and the main goals including reducing the carbon footprint of the Town. The Town was able to achieve a 15% reduction in energy use on the municipal side and reduce levels 11% town-wide from the years 2007-2013. A desired goal is to reduce the footprint by 20% in the upcoming years. She explained the “Power to Choose” and “Power to Save” programs and the Wellesley Green collaborative efforts. An increase in solar opportunities is planned for the future.

Ms. Freiman mentioned that Town residents could view comprehensive GIS maps on the Town’s new website which could show several views and background information on their property.

Presentation on Warrant Articles – Board of Selectmen

Katherine Babson, Chair of the Board of Selectmen and Hans Larsen, Executive Director gave the overview of two Articles which will be presented at the Special Town Meeting on December 9, 2013.

Article 5 – Special Purpose Stabilization Fund

This Article would create a fund to pay for medical costs and lost wages for firefighters and police officers injured on duty. A new pilot policy with Chubb insures the Town against medical claims in excess of \$250,000 to a maximum of \$1M per incurral, and the Town retains the first \$250K of exposure. Hence, a special purpose fund of at least \$250,000 needs to be created to adequately cover anticipated exposure. Hartford Insurance had covered this expense in the past, but will not be renewing coverage for FY14. Town administration was not able to find a cost effective alternative and is seeking to self-insure with this fund. Cabot Risk will evaluate and manage related medical claims beyond the first \$250,000 for FY14 at a cost of \$3,750 which is very cost effective. A two-thirds vote at Town Meeting is required to create the fund, and appropriate money into and out of the fund for this special municipal purpose.

Article 10 – Cochituate Aqueduct

This Article will approve the acquisition of 5.59 acres of the western portion of the Cochituate Aqueduct. The Town would seek authority to lease or sell approximately 11,000 sq. ft. of this land to the Dunkin Donuts franchise which would like to expand the parking lot and alleviate traffic issues at its facility on Route 9. To comply with the open space requirement the town plans to swap three parcels of land on Seaver Street with the NRC for the above mentioned 11,000 sq.ft. parcel.

Natural Resources Commission Overview

Heidi Gross, Chair of the NRC, Neal Seaborn, Commissioner and Janet Hartke Bowser, NRC Executive Director, were present for the overview. The mission statement, history and rationale for the creation of the Commission and its role and responsibilities under State law and Town bylaws were presented. A review of the annual report including the FY12-13 major accomplishments and primary initiatives were discussed. Highlights included: Fuller Brook Park Wins Listing on National Register of Historic Places; Tree City USA Award – 30th year and the longest of any Massachusetts municipality; installation of Rain Garden/Low Impact Development Project at Town Hall Duck Pond; implementation of Morses Pond Comprehensive Management Program; Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project final design and permitting effort, and extensive Inter-Board collaboration on Town projects. Department and budgetary concerns were also addressed.

Request for Transfer from Advisory Reserve Fund

Ms. Freiman reviewed the request from the Fuller Brook Park Coordinating Committee for additional funding of \$40,000 to cover unforeseen costs in the complex permitting process for this project. The reserve fund currently has a balance of \$175,000. The FBC did make a presentation to CPC for funding and the consensus of the CPC was to appropriate \$20,000 towards the requested amount. Advisory will review the estimated remaining project expenses and actual costs incurred more closely, as well as appropriateness of using Reserve Funds for this purpose before making a decision. A decision may be made after Town counsel reviews the CPC funding proposal.

Approval of Minutes

An amendment was made to correct the spelling of a name in the October 2, 2013 minutes and the location of the meeting in the October 5, 2013 minutes. There were no objections.

A motion was made by Lucy Kapples to approve the minutes of October 2, 2013 and October 5, 2013 as amended. The motion was seconded and the minutes of both meetings were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Liaison Reports

There were no liaison reports presented.

New Business/Old Business

There was none presented for review.

Announcements

Ms. Freiman advised that KC Kato, Chair of the School Committee, is arranging a tour of Fiske and Schofield schools for Advisory members on October 23, 2013 at 6:15 p.m.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m. with no objections.