

Advisory Committee
October 16, 2013
Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall

Marjorie Freiman called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present included Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Becky Epstein, Ann Marie Gross, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

Presentation on Warrant Articles

Article 12 – Electronic Voting at Town Meeting

Ellen Gibbs and Katherine Babson of the Board of Selectmen gave the update. This Article will authorize the Moderator to appoint a committee to study the question of whether Wellesley's Town Meeting should adopt electronic voting. The committee would research and evaluate the use of electronic voting and make a recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting in 2014, including the appropriation of any funding and any changes to Town bylaws. Use of electronic voting would provide more transparency to the public at Town Meetings, provide more speed and accuracy of standing vote counts and create an immediate public record. Voter privacy would be lost, potential costs are a consideration as the machines have a life span of five years and would need replacement. Malfunctioning machines and possible fraudulent votes are also possible issues.

Article 6 – Rescind/Transfer Debt

Ellen Gibbs of the Board of Selectmen presented the review. This Article would determine what action the Town will take on authorized and unissued loans, to rescind authorization to borrow and to authorize the transfer of unused proceeds of previously issued loans to other previously approved appropriations. Motion 1 is for approval to rescind the debt authorization for several projects which were completed under budget. Motion 2 is for the authorization to repurpose or re-appropriate premiums (excess funding which was not used). Motion 3 is not expected to be presented at Special Town Meeting.

Article 3, Motion 2 - Council on Aging Transfer of Funds

Terri Tsagaris of the Board of Selectmen and Gayle Thieme, Director of Senior Services, led the discussion. This Article will approve what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate to supplement or reduce appropriations previously approved by the Annual Town Meeting in 2013 under Article 8, Motion 2. The COA appropriated \$35,000 for the cost of M & L Transit. A reduction in afternoon transportation usage by patrons resulted in contractual savings in the amount of \$6,850. An increase in the FY14 Personal Services budget by \$6,850 for a Transportation Options Coordinator through June 2014 would be offset by those same savings of \$6,850 from unused hours of transportation. Approval is needed for the appropriation of these funds.

Article 8 – New Position in Facilities Maintenance Department

Barbara Searle of the Board of Selectmen gave the review. This Article seeks approval of the creation of a new position of Building Operations Liaison in the Facilities Maintenance Department to serve as a liaison to the Permanent Building Committee. Due to the quantity and complexity of the capital projects handled by the FMD, it has become necessary to use existing staff fully. In order to complete the number of projects experienced and anticipated, an additional position is needed with licensed architectural skills as well as design skills and management experience of public building construction projects.

Article 9 – Retail Sale of Malt Beverages and Wine

This item was handled out of sequence of the published agenda after “Approval of Minutes” with no objections.

Don McCauley of the Board of Selectmen provided the update. This Article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special authority to license food stores and specialty food stores for the sale of malt beverages and wine not to be consumed on the premises. The number of licenses and definition of stores eligible are to be determined. The Town is not seeking to sell these products through packaged liquor stores. This item is a result of a citizen petition in 2013. Area towns already allow this type of purchase at food stores. Several motions will be added to this Article at a later date after specific details are determined. There will be a public hearing regarding this item on November 4th.

Approval of Minutes

This item was handled out of sequence of the published agenda before item “Article 9, Retail Sale of Malt Beverages and Wine” with no objections.

A friendly amendment was made by Mason Smith to reflect the change in order from the published agenda. There were no objections. A motion was made by Lucy Kapples to approve the minutes of October 9, 2013 as amended. 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/Old Business

Ms. Freiman, Chair, announced that Sheryl Strother, Finance Director, has advised that the request made by the Fuller Brook Park Committee last week for funds from the Reserve Fund is not eligible because of statute. In her opinion the expenditures are not of an emergency nature and therefore do not qualify for funds from the Reserve Fund. This matter is being reconsidered by the CPC and will not be coming before Advisory again.

She also mentioned that the Fuller Brook Park Committee has scheduled two walks this weekend for the public to tour the park and learn about the planned restoration. Meeting first in the Arnold Conference Room of the Wellesley Free Library, the tours will be held on Saturday, October 19, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., and on Sunday, October 20, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Announcements

Ms. Freiman advised that KC Kato, Chair of the School Committee, will hold an informational tour of Schofield School on October 23, 2013 at 6:15 p.m. for Advisory members.

Morse Pond has met all recommendations regarding safety standards and practices as submitted by the outside consulting firm of DeRosa Aquatic Consulting.

Calendar updates were reviewed. It was announced that a public hearing on the Special Town Meeting Warrant would be held on October 30th in the Juliani Room of Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m. with no objections.