

Advisory Committee
June 11, 2014
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 Robert Capozzi, Mary Crown, Tom Engels, Becky Epstein, Tom Frisardi, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, Mason Smith and Scott Tarbox.

The Chair acknowledged members of the Wellesley High School Civics class in attendance.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

Chair's Preliminary Comments

Andy Patten, incoming Chair, announced the appointment of Co-Chairs Ann Rappaport and John Hartnett and Secretary, Mason Smith. Ann Rappaport was also named a new liaison for the North 40 project. Chad Harris, Lon Povich, Kathleen Woodward, Frank Pinto, and Michael Mastrianni have been appointed to the Advisory Committee for the coming year.

Marjorie Freiman, outgoing Chair, thanked all Advisory members and administrative staff for their contributions this year. She also expressed her gratitude to Town employees and volunteers. She reviewed this year's Advisory Committee's responsibilities, performance and schedule. There were some issues, such as the large number of contract negotiations and Special Town Meeting, which increased Advisory's workload and time but all felt the year was successful.

Year-in-Review with Board of Selectmen

The Chair welcomed Hans Larsen, Executive Director, and Terri Tsagaris, Barbara Searle, Ellen Gibbs, David Murphy and Donald McCauley, Board of Selectmen. She asked for their reflections on the year and recent override and referendum vote.

They felt there was confusion regarding whether the override would be for one or two years. Voting attendance was low and discussion followed regarding possible reasons for the small turn-out. It was noted that 40% of those who voted did not vote favorably for any override.

In terms of the budget, the BOS thought that gap lists should have been completed sooner. More communication is necessary between Advisory, BOS and the Town departments regarding requirements and expectations. It was noted that there was better support from the individual departments, boards and commissions this year.

Discussion followed regarding the setting of guidelines. The BOS explained how they begin the process of establishing the guidelines for each budgetary year. Advisory believes that it would be more beneficial for the guidelines to be developed sooner in the year, especially when there are Special Town Meetings scheduled for the fall.

Advisory strongly believes that any debt exclusion in the future should be listed with the potential tax impact so that voters can use this information in their decision making. Citizens did not have a lot of background information about the override's tax impact and our future

municipal projects requiring additional revenue. Some members suggest that the vote outcome could have been different with such additional information.

Advisory would also like to streamline board and commission presentations, especially for small departments, with limited overviews. Where possible, combined overview/capital budget and/or both capital and operating budgets presented at the same time would be more efficient.

Approval of Minutes

Lucy Kapples made a motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2014. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Liaison Reports

The Chair asked for liaison reports and various members of the Advisory Committee provided their reports.

New Business/Old Business

A transfer of funds from the Advisory personal service budget to the expense budget is needed to cover increased mailing costs of the 2013 STM and 2014 Annual Town Meeting reports.

Lucy Kapples made a motion that Advisory approve a transfer of \$3,400 and \$1,700 from the Advisory Committee Personal Services budget line items and \$2,600 from the Treasurer Department Expense budget to the Advisory Committee Expense budget for the total sum of \$7,700 to cover the expense of mailing Advisory materials associated with the Special Town Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands, 12 to 0.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m. with no objections.