

Wellesley Advisory Committee
Juliani Room, Town Hall
April 27, 2016, 7:00 PM

Present: Tom Frisardi, Mary Crown, Tom Fitzgibbons, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, Mark Kaplan, Michael Mastriani, Frank Pinto, Alena Poirier, Sara Raveret, Mason Smith, Ria Stolle, Scott Tarbox, and Kathleen Woodward.

7:00 Citizen Speak

There was no one present for Citizen Speak.

7:05 Debrief on Special and Annual Town Meetings, additional Advisory remarks, the year in review

Peg Metzger, Moderator, was present.

Six points from the omnibus presentation were discussed with the intention to follow up with the Board of Selectmen (BOS):

1. Consolidate administrative staff in several departments in Town Hall
 - Administrative staff in Town Hall serves several different boards
 - The BOS is working to have a plan by June
2. Combine payroll functions of the Town and School Department
 - School liaisons will address this with the School Committee
 - Outsourcing payroll could provide greater efficiencies
3. Benchmark school class size as compared to peer towns and reevaluate teaching loads in the high school
 - This will have to be addressed with the School Committee
 - The new book on school policy will address this issue
 - School Liaisons will follow up
 - A member brought up that high school department heads teach only one class and questioned whether they could teach more
 - Advisory should be involved at an early point in collective bargaining agreements
 - Collective bargaining is the largest single component of Town expenses
 - Advisory should have more time to understand and react to collective bargaining agreements
 - There was a question whether outside labor counsel would negotiate more effectively
 - Advisory should have more input from Human Resource, Finance, and the BOS on how guidelines are set before budget guidelines are established in the fall
 - The possibility of Advisory meeting occasionally during the summer was raised
4. Combine finance operations: the largest finance operation outside the Town is the Department of Public Works (DPW)
5. Outsourcing services where services can be maintained at current levels should be considered
 - Advisory could require each applicable department to identify services where surrounding towns outsource the work
 - Advisory should weigh in with a vote on each department budget, voting separately on each department's budget, presenting an opportunity to discuss outsourcing
 - Advisory would support or not support each department's budget; Advisory would not vote yes or no

- There was a suggestion to move the STM to January, probably the third week in January in order for Advisory to have time to get the book out
 - Could take away focus from the ATM
 - Advisory could have an improved role in setting budgets if the STM took place in January
 - There was a suggestion to divide Advisory into groups by expertise instead of liaison structure (similar to Brookline)
 - The suggestion could be taken up at a meeting in July with new Advisory members present
 - All board meetings should have televised meetings; many boards do not have up-to-date minutes posted
 - Request BOS to delegate someone to post minutes on the web site
6. Conduct an analysis of the benefits and costs of FMD
- Advisory should follow up for that to happen next year

There was continued discussion on holding the STM in January: there was a question whether the ATM date can be pushed back. Town Bylaws state the ATM has to start by the end of May. Starting ATM at the end of March allows time in the spring for possible debt exclusion and override votes.

- There was a suggestion from a member to have a discussion with the BOS on opportunities for individuals to participate on a project basis beyond the three-year term limit.

Combining finance functions:

- It was suggested that Advisory and Town Meeting have trouble understanding the DPW budget, particularly "work for others," and that the system has been in place for so long that none of us can explain why it is in use or what benefit it provides. Advisory plans to invite the DPW/BPW to an upcoming meeting to review the process.
- With upcoming retirements, there may be an opportunity to combine functions
- Liaison from Advisory to discuss the issue

There was a question on whether any of the Town Government Study Committee's proposed bylaw amendments could re-examined—specifically, those that were independent of a Town Manager form of government and related to the Human Resources functions and the budget process. It was noted that bringing proposals forward now could be difficult with a new Executive Director starting in the fall.

8:15 Approval of minutes

Sara Raveret made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/11 and 4/12; Mason Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried 13-0.

8:20 Liaison reports

There were liaison reports regarding Hardy/Hunnewell/Upham (HHU) and 900 Worcester Street. The first meeting for the new HHU Advisory Committee is tomorrow night. Now that the meetings will be frequent, two additional Advisory members will serve as liaisons to HHU.

8:35 Old business/ new business

8:45 Adjourn

Tom Frisardi adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm.