

Upon a motion by Mr. Ulfelder and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (4-0) to authorize the chair to sign the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's letter to National Grid regarding Municipal Priorities for Collaboration on Gas Leaks in Greater Boston.

4. Diversity Forum & Panel Discussion

Ms. Sullivan Woods provided a background about the diversity forum and asked the panelists to introduce themselves and briefly provide a statement regarding their experience and perspective of Wellesley as a welcoming town and how they feel the Town can improve.

The following panelists joined the Board. Elaine Bannigan, Owner/Broker, Pinnacle Residential Properties, Sarah Sarchet Butter, Pastor, Wellesley Village Church, Michelle Chalmers, President, World of Wellesley, Karen Evans, Wellesley Free Library, ESL Program Coordinator, Jamie Jurgensen, Department Head, Wellesley Free Library, Jerry Lu, President, WeCAN, David Lussier, Superintendent, Wellesley Public Schools, Elizabeth Shang, Pinnacle Residential Properties, Lilia Diaz, Wellesley resident originally from Venezuela, Ruslan Mikhailov, Wellesley resident originally from Russia, and Mary Qin, Wellesley resident originally from China.

Mr. Lussier stated the school system has made strides to address inclusion including gender identity and race. Ms. Chalmers provided background of World of Wellesley and explained how it works to provide a space for open discussions about diversity in Wellesley. Ms. Bannigan spoke about the experience of working with new residents moving to Town with language and cultural barriers. She stated the Chinese population in Wellesley has increased and they face challenges assimilating to the Town, noting that some have limited or no English. Ms. Shang stated she studied and is fluent in Mandarin and works with incoming Asian families to help assimilate them into the community. Ms. Butter stated her congregation takes openness and inclusion to heart. She noted that she works with the ABC organization and her congregation has partnered with the Chinese Language School. Ms. Jurgensen stated the library offers many programs for new residents. She noted many of the multi-cultural and bi-lingual events and programs. Ms. Evans provided a brief overview of the ESL program at the Library. Mr. Mikhailov, Ms. Diaz, and Ms. Qin all spoke to their experiences with ESL at the Library as well as their experiences of being newcomers to Wellesley. Mr. Lu provided a brief background of his organization Wellesley Chinese American Network, a nonprofit that assists Chinese families moving to Wellesley. He stated the organization assists new immigrant families get to know the Town and they also provide support to the Chinese School.

The group discussed opportunities to promote services offered by the Town and encourage participation. The panel discussed what the Town can do to promote additional diversity in the community and community events. Mr. Lussier noted that included in the FY20 budget is a request to create a position that would promote and focus on diversity and inclusion. Ms. Bannigan stated that before the discussion she did not know of all the services offered by the library and would provide their information to her clients. The panel discussed ways they could work with one another to promote programs and services across organizations.

Ms. Fallon, a Sprague PTO member came before the Board. She stated the PTO will be adding translation of materials to families.

The Board continued to discussed the need for getting information to the general community.

5. Discuss Traffic & Parking Fund

Chief Pilecki, Lt. Showstead, Ms. Strother, Town Finance Director, and Mr. Waldman, Town Treasurer joined the Board.

Ms. Robinson provided an overview the report provided to the Board regarding the background of the fund and what the traffic committee is working on and trying to accomplish. The Board discussed options for uses of the fund, Mr. Morgan suggested that charges for metered spaces could be looked at for an increase in revenue. Lt. Showstead stated the cost of the maintenance or replacement of traffic lights and crosswalk lights is substantial and when replacement is required, the cost will most likely need to be paid from the general fund rather than the traffic and parking fund. Ms. Freiman stated she would prefer to see a five-year capital plan for traffic and parking infrastructure related projects rather than access the fund and would prefer to use the fund for specific issues or unforeseen circumstances. Chief Pilecki stated a review of comparable towns and how they charge for meters and commuter lots would be conducted and presented to the Board. The Board continued to discuss opportunities for the fund, increasing revenue, and additional options for growth.

The Board discussed the design funding for the Great Plain Avenue project and the Chapter 90 funds. Staff will review types of projects and revenue streams and report back to the Board.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ulfelder and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (4-0) to authorize a contract with VHB to prepare a redesign of the Great Plain Avenue intersection in the amount of \$155,500.00 to be funded by the Town's Chapter 90 authorization.

6. 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Discussion

Mr. Morgan stated there were communication issues and DPW needed to add an article to the warrant. The warrant was re-opened in order to add the article to the warrant. Mr. Morgan stated the Board would vote to execute the warrant at the January 28th meeting.

Ms. Robinson reviewed additional information regarding several warrant articles and noted several changes. The Board discussed the inclusion or exclusion of dollar amounts within the warrant articles. The Board briefly reviewed and discussed several warrant articles.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ulfelder and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (4-0) to open the warrant for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of adding an article submitted by the Board of Public Works.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ulfelder and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (4-0) to close the warrant for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

7. Discuss FY20 Budget

The Board briefly discussed the FY20 budget. Staff will provide a list of possible reductions in expenses from the proposed budget at the next meeting.

8. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Robinson reviewed the items in the agenda packet for the Board's approval.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ulfelder and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (4-0) to appoint Alan Walker as a Local Inspector and Warren Pansire as an on-call Plumbing and Gas Inspector for the Town of Wellesley.

Upon a motion by Mr. Ulfelder and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes of the November 30 and December 4 2018 meetings.

9. New Business

Mr. Morgan stated the next regular meeting would be held Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Juliani Room at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.