

was appreciative of all of her efforts on the Town's behalf and the Board wished her well in her future endeavors and recognized her dedication and commitment to the Town.

Ms. Freiman announced that this meeting was the final Selectmen meeting for Ms. Gibbs. She stated on behalf of the Board and the Town, the Board extended its thanks to Ms. Gibbs for her long standing dedication to the Town's residents, town affairs, and regional interests. Ms. Gibbs had served on the Board since 2010. She noted Ms. Gibbs had served as a volunteer and an elected committee member throughout Wellesley for over twenty years. Ms. Gibbs plans to remain active in Town affairs. The Board thanked Ms. Gibbs for her service.

Ms. Gibbs expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Board.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Execute Proclamation – Boston Post Cane Holder Herlda Senhouse

Mr. Morgan reviewed the tradition of the Boston Post Cane, a symbolic gesture that allows a New England town to recognize its oldest citizen. He noted that Ms. Herlda Senhouse remains the Town's oldest living resident, noting that she will be celebrating her 108th birthday on February 28. Mr. Morgan read the proclamation recognizing Ms. Senhouse. He noted the Board will present the signed proclamation to Ms. Senhouse on her birthday.

5. Discuss Recommendation from NRC to Assess Damages Regarding Three Trees on Central Street

Ms. Robinson provided a brief background regarding the Central Street trees that were cut without authorization. The NRC had met and assessed fines to the owner and the owner had paid those fines. Ms. Robinson noted that the Board could assess further damages as recommended by the NRC, or could choose to accept the recommendation of the NRC.

The Board discussed the incident and the NRC recommendations for the assessment of damages. The Board debated whether additional damages were warranted. Ms. Freiman reviewed the state law applicable to the tree cutting. The Board continued to discuss the incident and possible damage assessment.

Mr. Brooks, attorney for the property owner, and Mr. Leuders, owner of the landscaping company, joined the Board. Mr. Brooks and Mr. Leuders addressed the Board regarding the tree incident and provided information from the landscaping company perspective. Mr. Leuders apologized on behalf of his company and stated he had not been as involved in the project as he might have been. He stated he believed the request from the property manager had been misinterpreted. He noted his ties to the community and work he had done in Wellesley over the years including working with former town staff. He stated the intent was to prune the trees to avoid damage to the trees by vehicles and provide clearance to vehicles and pedestrians. Mr. Brooks provided additional details regarding the planting and maintenance of the trees. He stated the fine assessed by the NRC was promptly paid by his client, noting again the apologies of the property owner and the landscaping company. He discussed his view of the applicable state and town regulations related to the incident.

The Board deliberated the appropriate damages assessment for the incident. Ms. Freiman proposed the Board come to an agreement with Mr. Leuders that if the trees were irreparably damaged from the

pruning, then Mr. Leuders would replace the trees for the Town. Mr. Leuders was amenable to the proposal given a timeframe for the acceptable life of the trees, approximately two years.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to not take positive action on the recommendation from the NRC to assess damages, but instead to direct the Park and Tree Division to have a conversation with Mr. Leuders about addressing the issue of the trees health, fertilization, and pruning and grant permission to do that work and that Mr. Leuders will replace the trees if any of them should die within the next two years.

6. Discuss Use of North 40 as Swing Space

Mr. Ulfelder stated that during the feasibility study for the Hunnewell School work had been done for finding possible locations for swing space. He stated the public had been recently asking questions about revisiting the North 40 as a possible location for swing space. He stated that any location of the modular classrooms for swing space on the North 40 would require tree removal and additional work to bring utilities to the location. He noted that without knowing the overall development plan for the site the Town could not be assured the work would not be done with the long term use of the land. Ms. Freiman added she believed it would be an inappropriate location given the forestry work that would need to be done. Mr. Morgan stated that the Town has an agreement with Wellesley College that a committee would be formed prior to determining the use of the land. The Board agreed they were not supportive of the use of the North 40 as swing space.

7. Discuss and vote ATM Article 21 – Softball Field

Mr. Morgan introduced Article 21 regarding the funding for the Softball Field renovation.

Mr. D’Ortenzio and Mr. Sheehan of the Playing Fields Task Force and Mr. Hickey, Town Engineer joined the Board.

The Board discussed the overall plans for the project and how it had progressed from its inception. The Board expressed its support for the project.

Mr. Sheehan thanked the Board and particularly Ms. Gibbs for her guidance and support over the years.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to support a motion under Article 21 regarding a request by the Playing Fields Task Force to construct a new softball field.

8. Discuss and vote ATM Article 18 – Library Renovation

Mr. Morgan introduced Article 18 regarding the Library Renovation project.

Ms. Jurgenson, Library Director, Ms. Lanza and Ms. Howley of the Library Trustees, joined the Board. The Board discussed the project and the work that had already been completed.

Ms. Crowley expressed thanks to the Board for their support of the project.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to support a motion under Article 18 regarding a request by the Library Trustees to fund the design of interior renovations to the Main Branch Library.

9. Discuss FY20 Budget Status

Ms. Strother, Town Finance Director, joined the Board.

Ms. Strother reviewed updated information within the budget. She pointed to the budget summary and noted that town budgets included a 3% and the School request was 3.71%. Ms. Robinson noted that the budget had been able to be balanced due to reductions in health insurance costs based on actual enrollments from the current fiscal year and projected enrollments for the upcoming year. Ms. Strother reviewed the variances within the budget and noted departments that appear over guideline based on additional personnel and anticipated projects.

Mr. Morgan stated that Advisory would be taking supportive or non-supportive votes on all submissions above guideline over the course of their next two meetings. He stated he supported moving forward with approval of the budget as proposed as the budget was able to be balanced. Ms. Strother provided additional details regarding how the budget was able to be balanced. The Board discussed the budget process and several departments that remain out of guideline and the basis for each. Ms. Freiman stated she believed the School budget should be reviewed further to see which expenses could be pushed out to future years.

Ms. Sullivan Woods discussed the social services report and the recommendations of additional funding for mental health resources. She stated she believed there would be room in the budget to add funding for mental health resources of approximately \$160,000. The Board discussed the need for and appropriate level of funding for additional support for mental health and social services. The Board continued to discuss the overall budget.

Ms. Ward, Secretary to Advisory Committee, joined the Board. She discussed the Advisory schedule for preparing the Advisory report and voting on annual town meeting articles.

The Board reviewed discussed the best way to proceed regarding the budget with consideration to Advisory's timeframe. Staff agreed to revise the proposed budget to include funding for mental health services. The Board agreed to meet on February 28th to review and vote on the proposed budget.

10. Discuss Town-Wide Financial Plan

Mr. Morgan reviewed the draft town wide financial plan and noted there would need to be additional edits. The Board reviewed the current draft and using the model of assumptions of 3% growth in operating budgets. The Board made additional edits to the draft, staff agreed to update the draft to include edits that would be reviewed at the February 28th meeting.

11. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Robinson briefly reviewed the items for the Board's approval.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of the February 4 and 11, 2019 meetings.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to accept a donation of \$500 from Maryanne Miller for the COA Bus.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Ms. Freiman, the Board voted (5-0) to appoint Lucia R. Grignaffini as a Crossing Guard for the Town of Wellesley.

12. New Business and Correspondence

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.