

**Advisory Committee Meeting  
Juliani Room, Wellesley Town Hall  
Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

Those present from the Advisory Committee included Jane Andrews, Julie Bryan, Rose Mary Donahue, Bob Furlong, Mary Gard, Bill Maynard, Paul Merry, Dave Murphy, Lina Musayev, Betsy Roberti, Mary Scanlon, Tom Skelly and Andrea Ward.

Tom Skelly called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

**7:00 p.m. Public Hearing on Warrant Articles for 2019 Annual Town Meeting (ATM)**

Tom Skelly opened the hearing with an introduction:

- Thank you to Town Boards and Committees who have presented budgets and warrant articles to Advisory
- Advisory will continue to receive input on ATM matters
- ATM begins on Monday evening, March 25, 2019 at the Wellesley Middle School
- There will be a general Citizen Speak opportunity on non-ATM matters after this public hearing
- Hearing is an opportunity for the public to share views on the warrant articles
- Brief explanation of Advisory Committee and its function and how it fits in the overall Town process
  - 15 residents appointed by Town Moderator for 3-year terms
  - Serve as advisors to Town Meeting
  - Similar to Finance Committees in other towns, but broader charter (zoning, bylaws, etc.)
  - Does not set priorities but performs due diligence by asking questions and asking for supporting documentation
  - Previews all issues, examines the budget and asks questions that a Town Meeting Member might ask
  - Goal is to make recommendations to Town Meeting by deliberating on all
  - Publish Advisory Report for Town Meeting
- Tonight's public hearing is important part of the process -- listening to all perspectives and gathering information
- Advisory does not set priorities for the Town, does not create articles or bylaws; Advisory's influence is based on the rigor and strength of its analysis

Process for public hearing:

- Will summarize each article on ATM warrant in order
- Anyone who wants to speak to an article, please approach and sign in
- Advisory's role is to listen and take input; there will no formal response, dialogue or debate to any comments; however, clarification may be requested

The public hearing is not the only opportunity to share comments. Advisory meets weekly and will be deliberating and making recommendations on every article; meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Town website; and videos of the meetings are available on Wellesley Media.

A summary of each article on the warrant was read, in numerical order, and the public was offered the opportunity to comment on each one.

There was a comment on Article 8:

Joelle Reidy, 60 Prospect Street – Ms. Reidy is a Vice President of Wellesley Middle School PTO and a Town Meeting Member (TMM). She raised concerns/questions about how social services and mental health needs are being addressed in the Town budget. Last spring she proposed an amendment at ATM to add two additional school resource officers (SROs); one was added into budget. At that time, there was a commitment by the Town to study mental health/social services needs; she has made inquiries but has not heard back as to Town progress on this issue. She commented that mental health is a major issue in our Town, as evidenced by comments from the Police Chief and others, and asked whether the Town has identified the gaps and how it will fund them. She further commented that prevention, education and support are the keys to the safety of our Town.

Tom Skelly concluded the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m. and opened the regular meeting of the Advisory Committee.

### **7:20 p.m. Citizen Speak**

Charlene Smith, 37 Park Ave. -- Ms. Smith read her January 30, 2019 letter to Advisory regarding a request to honor and commemorate Sylvia Plath, as the anniversary of her death is February 11. Ms. Smith commented that although Ms. Plath's former home at 26 Elmwood Road has been declared a historical district, there is no plaque on the home. Ms. Smith requested that the Town name a street and a square after Sylvia Plath and add a historical plaque to her former home.

### **7:28 p.m. Approval of Minutes**

Andrea Ward made and Bob Furlong seconded a motion to approve the January 9, 2019 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **7:28 p.m. Liaison Reports**

#### Schools/Jane Andrews

The School Department will be presenting to Advisory February 6, 2019. Materials will be distributed in advance. School Committee is holding firm with a 3.65% increase in the budget and the proposed addition of 13 FTEs.

#### MLP/Bill Maynard

- Dick Joyce, MLP Director, has officially announced his retirement; will remain on board until July; search firm has been retained and search committee formed
- MLP is adopting a set of principles around renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gases which will be discussed at ATM

#### Board of Health (BOH)/Mary Gard

- Dug into numbers after last week, due to the discrepancy between the historical budget request numbers circulated by the Chair (obtained from Finance Department) prior to that meeting and the BOH numbers
- The numbers were different because (i) BOH was getting its numbers from the comprehensive annual financial reports and (ii) the Finance Department numbers omitted the Mental Health contract line, which made a big difference
- BOH turns back a lot of money every year, since it routinely requests enough to cover public health emergencies (disease outbreaks, etc.)

A question was asked if the turnbacks are from inspections/fees or just from over-budgeted items: The latter. They also carry forward some money every year.

A comment was made that the Chair, liaison, BOH representatives and Finance will meet to discuss budget; then will have BOH come back to Advisory to finish up their presentation.

A follow-up comment/question was made regarding the Public Hearing comments by Ms. Reidy about the Town's review of mental health services: The report of the Social Services/Mental Health working group was circulated to Advisory prior to the BOH presentation last week; committee comprised of members of a variety of Town boards.

### **7:35 p.m. Committee on Electronic Voting re: ATM Article 36**

The members of the Committee on Electronic Voting were present: Pete Jones, Chair; Doug Smith, Vice Chair; Roberta Francis, Clerk; K.C. Kato; and Ilissa Povich.

Following citizen petition at last year's ATM, Moderator formed a committee to study possibility of electronic voting (EV) at Town Meeting – charter of committee was to evaluate the changes needed in the bylaws and to investigate pricing.

EV is an electronic tool to assist the Moderator in collecting and counting votes; EV will supplement normal voting processes.

Benefits of EV:

- Transparency—each TMM's vote is recorded permanently; allows constituents to see how TMM voted
- Accuracy—vote is not dependent on the audio level of voice vote
- Timeliness—EVs are cast faster than standing or roll call counted votes (takes seconds rather than minutes)

A question was asked concerning the permanence of the record of a TMM vote: The EV system collects the votes and converts the votes to an Excel spreadsheet. It is up to the Moderator how that information is displayed and whether just yes's and no's are shown or, in addition, how each TMM voted. EV is very flexible.

Clarification was requested as to whether the TMM's individual votes are available at the end of the meeting: EV is very flexible in terms of how a town wants to display the votes. For example, in Lexington, names are grayed out so that the individual votes are not shown until after all TMMs have voted.

A question was asked whether EV would create more work for the Town Clerk: There might be some extra work but it is similar to what is currently being done by hand. EV will produce a spreadsheet after the meeting.

A follow-up question was asked as to when EV spreadsheets are available: An Excel spreadsheet is produced at the end of the meeting. It all depends on how much information is wanted and how that information is presented. It can be done instantaneously to show how everyone votes, but most towns don't do this because it takes a lot of time. Most towns save the information to a PDF and upload it within a few days. Some towns purge the information. Will be our choice to decide whether to post the information or make it available upon request

A question was asked whether residents in a precinct could see how an individual TMM votes: Yes, that information will be available.

A question was asked as to whether the Town would be establishing policies and procedures for the use of EV.

A question was asked as to whether this is really just delayed transparency: There is some flexibility in the EV system. For example, Belmont displays votes instantaneously. The Moderator sets a timer and the votes are displayed when the voting is over. Therefore, if the decision is to show all votes immediately, then the votes will be visible. However, whether the votes are displayed or not, the votes go into a spreadsheet and are available through the Town Clerk.

The EV Committee presented and reviewed the research they conducted. All TMMs (and Advisory members) were surveyed; 114 responses received out of 250 potential. The consensus was that people would like to be able to see the votes/have a record, so that constituents can see the votes. Enhanced accuracy, and in some cases time savings, were also considered positives. IT Department's recommendation is to rent for the first year to see if the Town likes the system, and then purchase it or, if personnel are not available within Town to run the system, continue to rent it. EV Committee compared pricing models – pricing to purchase outright and pricing for complete installation, running and takedown by an outside vendor.

Additional research performed included:

- Reviewed the electronic voting survey created by members of the Massachusetts Moderators' Association
- Attended actual Town Meetings of neighboring towns to understand the operation of EV
- Visited/spoke with Moderators and Town Clerks of surrounding towns to understand the benefits to their process and issues encountered
- Evaluated various vendors of electronic hardware and software and compared features and function for selection, ease of use and voting security; three vendors provided demonstrations

A question was asked whether any towns have said “no” to EV: Yes, most are small towns and because of price, said no. Thirty-six towns are currently using EV (compared to twenty last year).

A question was asked whether a majority of the towns using EV are open town meeting or representative town meeting: Four peer towns that EV Committee visited (Brookline, Lexington, Arlington, and Belmont) are all representative town meetings using EV.

A question was asked whether there have been problems with TMMs walking away with the voting device: Each TMM is assigned a number so the device can be tracked if it is not turned back at the end of the meeting.

A question was asked whether the EV Committee considered the possibility of someone hacking into the system and changing votes: From a security standpoint, there are three levels of authentication; channels and ids are matched up; frequency and ids are used (rather than a block chain) so the channel can be changed; and the handset is locked into the software of the computer.

The ease of use of the EV handset was discussed. There are 3 buttons – yes, no, and abstain. One handset model also provides the TMM a confirmation of the vote.

A question was asked as to what would happen if a TMM were to leave Town Meeting and give his/her handset to another TMM for voting: When that does happen, the TMMs nearby are usually policing. A comment was made that there could be sign in and sign out procedures.

A question was asked whether the Committee has a favorite vendor; whether there is a difference in price between vendors; and who decides which vendor to choose: If EV approved by TMM, then an RFP will be sent out to all vendors with the specifications and features the Town would like.

A question was asked, if EV is approved, will the EV Committee come back to Town Meeting with policies and procedures: Most towns put policies and procedures in the hands of the Moderator and the Town Clerk.

A question was asked as to how it would be handled if Moderator says no to electronic voting on a specific article and TMMs object: This would be handled in the same way it is now, in that people will stand up to request an EV.

A comment was made that some of these kinds of details are going to be material to Town Meeting and TMMs will want to know how EV is to be used and will want more information about policies and procedures. A suggestion was made to create a question and answer sheet to sketch out some of the controls and what will happen with EV.

A question was asked whether there is an estimate as to how much it costs to buy vs. rent an EV system: There is a range from about \$11,000 to \$30,000 to purchase a system outright for 250 units plus spares. The rental agreement is \$13,000 per year and would be turnkey; would provide all the personnel to load warrant articles and produce the EV reports.

A question was asked as to the life cycle of the equipment: Since EV is relatively new, it is about six years so far. Towns have reported no breakdowns. The batteries are replaced every year.

A question was asked concerning the request in Article 36 for \$15,000 and whether this amount is to purchase or rent: This is to rent system for the first year as a trial, per IT Department recommendation; if the Town eventually decides to purchase an EV system, it will need people to run it and will have to cost out the additional staffing/resource requirements.

A follow up question was asked whether the staff would come from IT or the Town Clerk: Most towns don't use IT staff, they use staff from the Town Clerk's office because it's not difficult to operate.

A question was asked whether there are people available to help if EV malfunctions during Town Meeting: If a unit malfunctions, there are back-up units. If the whole system goes down, then Town Meeting can go back to voice or standing votes.

There was a question whether Town Counsel has reviewed the proposed bylaw language given concerns last year about getting the bylaw written properly: Yes, there is a new section 8.25 that will be added to the bylaws.

A comment was made that more information on policies and procedures should be given to Town Meeting to help with deliberation on this article. The EV Committee was asked to develop a set of policies and procedures and provide them to Advisory in advance of ATM.

## **8:24 p.m. Citizen Petition Proponents re: Indigenous Peoples Day (ATM Article 38)**

Michelle Chalmers, President, World of Wellesley (WOW), was present.

Ms. Chalmers indicated that there would be seven people speaking in support of Article 38. A comment was made that each should provide different information and that Advisory would not be voting on the Article/motion tonight.

*Michelle Chalmers* provided an overview of the petition. She stated that the resolution may be new information for many people and it may be difficult, but it is also humanizing. Over the years WOW has built many bridges in Wellesley and has helped make Wellesley a welcoming place for everyone. But what that means can be answered differently by each of us. There are people in Wellesley who don't feel included, valued, or seen. This Citizen Petition started from the curiosity of a 12-year old about why we celebrate Columbus Day. It was determined that we need a bridge between what our children learn in school and what the Town is celebrating. The community came out tonight and some 400 people have signed the petition online. The supporters feel it is wrong to embrace a myth of discovery and heroism by Columbus; this resolution is asking elected TMMs to do better now that we know better. The Resolution requests that Wellesley rename the holiday known as Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day (IPD) in all Town calendars, update the Town history on the website, encourage the Board of Selectmen to proclaim the second Monday of October as IPD, and encourage the townspeople to observe IPD.

A question was asked as how "indigenous peoples" are defined: An indigenous person will speak at the end of the presentation to answer the question.

A comment was made that Town Counsel reviewed the original resolution and made some suggestions for changes, which the petitioners incorporated. A further comment/suggestion was made that, given decentralized form of government, perhaps the sponsors should be approaching other boards and committees to get the best results: The language in the resolution was changed to "encourage" the Board of Selectmen (BOS) rather than to "direct" them; the Resolution will be presented to the Board of BOS; the supporters of the Resolution are asking Town Meeting, as the leaders of the community, to voice an opinion on this.

A question was asked if other communities have done this, how have they made the decision, and whether Town Meeting rendered the decision: Other speakers will address this question, but yes, Brookline, Cambridge and Somerville have passed similar resolutions.

*Zach Bender*, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Wellesley Middle School, asked whether the Town of Wellesley should be celebrating someone who murdered and brutalized innocent people. Many indigenous people are not recognized enough and they need to be. Columbus came along and said he discovered America even though people had been in America for a long time.

A question was asked how students in the Wellesley Public Schools learn about Columbus and indigenous people and in what context: Most of the information about indigenous people was learned this year (7<sup>th</sup> grade) but prior to that students are taught at an early age that Columbus discovered America. It is difficult to realize that students have been lied to that Columbus was some hero but in reality he was not.

*Emma Hammond*, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Wellesley Middle School, spoke in support of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. She stated that previous teachers white-washed history about Columbus and that she only learned about this in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. When indigenous people were enslaved, they couldn't do anything about their situation. In elementary school the perception was that Columbus was a hero.

Therefore, in order to make history correct we need to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. In the future we would like to remember what the indigenous people went through and to pay respect to them.

A question was asked whether the students have experienced a lack of respect for diversity at the Middle School and whether they feel that recognizing indigenous people would make a difference in terms of honoring diversity in the student body: The general feeling is that there aren't too many problems with diversity, but opening up a new way to think about this would make people feel more welcome.

A comment was made that Columbus Day is declared a holiday by the federal government and maybe the students should work with the federal government if they are successful with this petition: Yes, we shouldn't have inaccurate history.

An additional comment was made commending the activism of the student speakers.

*Audrey Fitzpatrick*, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Wellesley Middle School, spoke about how she learned about Columbus and indigenous people. Students were always taught in elementary school that Columbus discovered America and was a building block of the country. However, the history of native people was erased when people from Europe moved to America. Changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day will honor those people.

*Kisha James*, a sophomore at Wellesley College and an enrolled member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah) on Martha's Vineyard and President of Wellesley College Native American Students Association stated that Wellesley College faculty members and students support this Resolution.

Ms. James was asked to speak about her experiences. She worked on statewide campaigns in Cambridge and Brookline. When she attended elementary school in Brookline, students were taught that Columbus discovered America. Students dressed up as Indians and Columbus; as an indigenous person, she found this hurtful and humiliating; she felt she didn't belong in this country. It is important for all Native American children and non-Native American children to learn about the experience.

A question was asked for clarification about the Wampanoag and Aquinnah tribes and which Native Americans lived around Wellesley: There are two distinct Wampanoag tribes, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah); the Massachusetts Indians lived in this area. A follow-up question was asked whether the Massachusetts people had land-ownership: That is hard to answer as the tribes in Massachusetts were the most early assimilated, but we can assume probably not. However, the lack of land ownership doesn't mean that they gave the land away.

A question was asked as to what benefits/advantages would come to non-indigenous people if the petition were to succeed: It will help fight stereotypes, ignorance and racism.

*Adriana Voci*, founder and former President of the Wellesley High School Diversity Club, spoke in support of Indigenous Peoples Day, as it is important to acknowledge indigenous people as an essential part of our culture and existence.

A question was asked as to what caused the formation of the Diversity Club: It started several years ago in response to a racially charged incident in the summer of 2016; observed that there were divides in the Town between white and non-white students; wanted to bridge that gap through community service and engagement.

An additional question was asked as to what types of activities the Diversity Club is engaged in: The Diversity Club is involved in civic activities and works with WOW; participated in Martin Luther King Jr. assembly throughout the community; members volunteer weekly at a homeless shelter in Cambridge; members also work to educate students and WHS about diversity.

There was discussion about the history of citizen petitions at Town Meeting. A comment was made that there have been citizen petitions in the past and these are an opportunity for education and for a conversation in Town. These kinds of petitions have been done in other communities.

The students were commended and thanked for speaking to Advisory. Their teacher, Kyle Eichner, was also recognized and thanked. A comment was made that it is hard to know what Town Meeting will do and supporters should not be discouraged, whatever the outcome of the vote. Martin Luther King Day was not easily attained and these efforts are just the beginning in an effort to make a change.

*Joan Aandeg*, a member of the Lac Courtes Oreilles band of the Ojibwe Anishinaabe people located around the Great Lakes in Northern Wisconsin, spoke. Ms. Aandeg has been a resident of Wellesley for six years. She spoke about the existence of the indigenous people and the need to acknowledge their existence, which has been erased from the consciousness of the Americas. Columbus represents genocide and the destruction of civilizations that existed for 10,000 years. She feels that America continues to dehumanize native people through stereotyping and mocking. America does not understand who indigenous people were before colonization. She, too, grew up with Columbus being celebrated and nobody talked about the reality that an entire continent, which was homeland to hundreds of tribes of people who had been here for thousands of years, was put into prisoner of war camps called reservations. There are generations of people who have lost their culture. Ms. Aandeg spoke about the conditions of the indigenous people today and explained that she is sharing her own perspective about why renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day is so important. A lot of history is not taught, so people aren't aware of the history.

A question was asked if there are additional things in society that can be changed: Two main concerns are education and the environment; being conscious of every decision we make and the impact it has on future generations.

*Mahtowin Munro*, *Watertown, MA*, a member of the Lakota Sioux tribe and a founding member of IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org, spoke about the efforts in other communities. She has been working on establishing Indigenous Peoples Day in Massachusetts since 1992. She was impacted by the celebration of Columbus and she saw how damaging this was to children. She believes Indigenous Peoples Day is necessary because so much damage has been done to both indigenous people and non-indigenous people with lies and the lack of understanding of where we live. There are indigenous people living in the communities. Today, 40% of non-natives believe indigenous people are extinct. There is the assumption that indigenous people live on reservations somewhere. However, 75% of indigenous people do not live on reservations. Indigenous Peoples Day is not just getting rid of Columbus Day, it is a gift to the Town to move forward and to have an understanding of where we all are and what the value of the land is to indigenous people. Ms. Munro started the state-wide IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org to work with towns such as Brookline and Cambridge. Town Meeting is the most representative form of democracy that we have. Town Meetings have taken up a variety of social issues that aren't directly related to finances. The Indigenous Peoples Day organization would like the opportunity to educate people in the Town of Wellesley. In Brookline, they went directly to Town Meeting to encourage the Brookline Board of Selectmen to take actions. There is no procedural impediment for this to be brought to Town Meeting.

A comment was made that the resolution/citizen petition is on the warrant, so it is going forward to Annual Town Meeting.

A question was asked how this will be implemented if approved. The proclamation is a one-time action, but it will spur an ongoing effort in Town. Some administrative changes will be made (e.g., calendar listings). Moving forward, schools, teachers and principals will start to think about the new holiday in Town and what is being taught in the schools. Brookline decided to revamp curriculum to include Indigenous Peoples Day; Cambridge is working hard to revamp its curriculum. It is important that K-12 students have an understanding of the history of indigenous people. Every town finds a different way to approach this, but the first step is Indigenous Peoples Day.

As to the question of how to define indigenous people: It includes all those throughout the United States and central and South America.

A question was asked if there has been a discussion with the Wellesley schools in terms of what is being taught: Yes, this will be presented to Town Meeting.

### **9:36 p.m. Additional Liaison Reports**

#### Planning Board/Dave Murphy

BOS held a public hearing on Monday, January 28, for Wellesley Office Park (WOP)

- No speakers
- Project moving forward
- Infrastructure discussions moving forward; closing in on what needs to happen on the water/sewer lines and how the costs can be allocated between developer and Town
  - State gives incentive payments for 40R and part of those payments would be used to offset Town's costs
- Town's traffic consultant (Beta) looked at John Hancock's traffic consultant's report and agreed with most of the observations
  - Agree with putting a traffic light at Williams Street.
  - Estimate 17 new trips in the morning and 53 additional trips in the afternoon, so there will not be a huge addition to traffic
- One by one, things are falling into place so the BOS can move forward and file an application with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
  - This allows the Town to go forward with proposal for Town Meeting (Special Town Meeting (STM) within Annual Town Meeting)
  - DHCD has 60 days to review the application
  - If DHCD takes the full 60 days, then it won't be in time for Town Meeting, but hope is that they will only take 30 days

A question was asked whether the Fire Department's previous concerns about accessing the WOP site have been addressed: At this point there isn't a final decision on this.

Alternative to 40B projects at Delanson Circle and 148 Weston Road

- Developers came back with further reductions of units at Delanson Circle to 35 and an increase in units at Weston Road to 25
- Talking about purchasing the contiguous property in the back of 148 Weston Road to expand the number of units there
- The number of affordable units at Delanson will go down to four units in the two duplexes on Hollis Street
- The possibility of the 40Bs is still out there; these are alternative proposals

- The height of some of the units on Delanson has been lowered; the neighbors are somewhat more in favor of this
- These projects would need to be rezoned as a residential overlay incentive (RIO); hope is to bring zoning questions to same STM as Wellesley Office Park 40R zoning issues
- Gaining a lot of affordable units at WOP and have gone down quite a bit in these developments

A comment was made that the outdoor lighting bylaw being proposed at ATM was changed and residential properties have been removed from its scope.

There was a discussion about the Advisory timetable, ATM schedule and the likely STM. Concern was expressed about the Planning Board's ability to come to Advisory, make presentations and answer questions in the time remaining. The BOS will take the lead on the 40R WOP project.

**9:52 p.m. Adjourn**

Jane Andrews made and Lina Musayev seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Items Reviewed During the Meeting**

- *Letter from Charlene Smith to Advisory Committee, January 30, 2019*
- *Electronic Voting for Town Meeting, Presentation by Committee on Electronic Voting, January 30, 2019*
- *Report of the Committee on Electronic Voting, January 30, 2019*