

Approved April 11, 2019

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Faculty Dining Room, Wellesley Middle School
Monday, April 8, 2019, 6:00 p.m.**

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

6:02 p.m. Discussion/voting re: Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Advisory took up the revised Planning motions that will be offered tonight at ATM. Planning Board members Kathleen Woodward and Catherine Johnson (Chair) were present.

Revised Article 29 Motion

Andrea Ward noted that Town Counsel had confirmed that Advisory does not need to re-vote Article 29; the only change in the motion being presented tonight is to the date of the redlined document referred to in the motion.

Revised Article 30 Motion

Andrea Ward made and Paul Merry seconded a motion to rescind the vote taken by the Advisory Committee on March 2, 2019 regarding Warrant Article 30. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Andrea Ward made and Mary Scanlon seconded a motion to amend and approve Warrant Article 30, Motion 1, as revised by the Planning Board and distributed on April 5, 2019. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Revised Article 32 Motion

Michael D’Ortenzio, Jr., raised the issue of whether Figure 2 in the new bylaw, which labels certain light fixtures as “Unacceptable/*Discouraged*” (emphasis added) was potentially ambiguous and should be changed (i.e., delete the word “discouraged”).

There was a question whether an amendment was necessary, as the text accompanying Figure 2 (Section F.1) already states that “unacceptable/discouraged” light fixtures are prohibited (“See Figure 2 for examples ... [that] “would be unacceptable/discouraged and therefore prohibited under this Section.”)

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Woodward agreed to look into the issue.

Andrea Ward made and Mary Scanlon seconded a motion to rescind the vote taken by the Advisory Committee on March 2, 2019 regarding Warrant Article 32. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Andrea Ward made and Bill Maynard seconded a motion to amend and approve Warrant Article 32, Motion 1, as revised by the Planning Board and distributed on April 5, 2019. The motion passed 11-0, with one member abstaining.

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Woodward returned with Victor Panak, Interim Planning Director, and informed Advisory that the Planning Board had agreed to make the additional changes to Article 32, Motion 1, suggested by Mr. D’Ortenzio; namely, to strike out the term “discouraged” from

Figure 2 and the accompanying text of Section F.1, and to include those revisions in the motion it will be bringing tonight to ATM.

Andrea Ward made and Paul Merry seconded a motion to rescind the vote taken by the Advisory Committee on April 8, 2019 regarding Warrant Article 32, Motion 1. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

Andrea Ward made and Mary Scanlon seconded a motion to amend and approve Warrant Article 32, Motion 1, as revised by the Planning Board and distributed on April 5, 2019 and as further revised by removing the word “discouraged” in Figure 2 and the accompanying text. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

6:20 p.m. Minutes Approval/Liaison Reports/Administrative Matters

Andrea Ward made and Lina Musayev seconded a motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2019. The motion was approved unanimously.

School Building Committee (SBC)/Jane Andrews

- Upcoming dates: April 30, forum to discuss everything; May 2, SBC will discuss preferences for the Hunnewell building; May 16, preferences for swing space; May 23, hope to vote
- Advisory replacement needed for Jane on SBC, as she is moving at end of May; commitment is every other Thursday night for several hours; voting position; contact Tom Skelly if interested

6:25 pm. Citizen Speak

Joelle Reidy, 60 Prospect Street

- Has spent last seven years working in Town/across the nation trying to help with school safety and provide necessary resources
- Speaking tonight in support of mental health services package advanced by Board of Selectmen and Board of Health
- In conjunction with school resource officer budget amendment at last year’s ATM, which Ms. Reidy sponsored, Police Chief Pilecki stated that additional mental health assistance was needed; subsequent efforts among Town departments to develop proposal for which funding now sought

6:36 p.m. Mental Health Services Initiative

Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen (BOS), and Marcia Testa Simonson, Board of Health (BOH), presented. The other members of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health were in attendance, as were the Executive Director, the Health Director, the Chief of Police, and representatives of Human Resources Services (HRS).

Ms. Sullivan Woods thanked Advisory for its thoughtfulness and feedback on the earlier version of proposal; BOS/BOH have refined the request. Ms. Sullivan Woods handed out hard copies of a slide deck and used that as the basis for her remarks.

- “Background” slide shows that all the Town social services leaders were involved in this project

- Work ongoing last year as follow-up to ATM; acknowledge that initiative itself came together late; didn't want to wait an additional year to implement
- No debate about the need: significant increase in number of residents seeking social and mental health services and in complexity of issues
 - By way of example, the Police report that they had 281 "911" calls last year (or 23 per month) that were known to be mental health related
- Big part of discussion with Advisory last month was how this plan will work: it will be a "hub and spoke" model, with Health Department/BOH as hub
 - Exactly how public health currently works and how those providers think
 - Town departments (COA, Fire, Police, School, Youth Commission) currently draw on Health Department for resources
 - All of mental health contracts currently "live" in the BOH (HRS, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Charles River Center)
 - Ability to pull in other resources (e.g., HRS) when needed
 - Extremely collaborative, rather than hierarchical
- FY20 Recommendations
 - Support modest funding improvements in FY20 budgets of BOH and Schools: Accomplished at ATM
 - Add resources that working group felt are most important
 - Staffing for a full-time Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) within Health Department: \$110,000 (includes \$20,000 for benefits)
 - Increase contract with HRS: \$25,000 will allow additional half-time person (approximately 450 hours per year), and permit another 40-50 families to be seen
 - This is \$15,000 more than the \$10,000 requested originally in March
 - Contract for law enforcement clinical support: \$40,000
 - Total request of \$175,000
- LICSW position details
 - 80% of time will be spent in public health social work services
 - 20% will be overseeing other social workers within Town who currently go to the Health Director for assistance

There was a question how this person will work with existing social workers: Current social workers are excited at prospect; this will help them get licensure; also connects Town with social work interns.

There was a question as to the reporting/accountability structure for the new position: The person will be housed within the Health Department and will report to the Health Director, who is a certified health officer and has the license to supervise this person (as well as nurses, etc.); HRS will serve as a resource for clinical consultations; this is a very collaborative structure; every incident has to be written up; there will be much better data gathering and monitoring in Year 1.

- HRS contract increase details
 - HRS provides mental and behavioral health care, not public health social work services
 - Current contract amount is \$241,658
 - Consultation and support of Town and School staff
 - Subsidizes direct services to residents
 - At capacity right now for direct services

- Law enforcement clinical support
 - \$40,000 to partner with Weston for one designated Emergency Clinician (social worker) assigned to both towns
 - Will work primarily business hours but be available 24/7 to help navigate
 - Will respond with police to scene of mental/behavioral health crisis
 - Will follow-up to implement services
 - Will be an employee of Riverside Community Care based in Norwood

There was a question where this employee actually will be housed, e.g., in Norwood: Person will be located in Weston or Wellesley; will have a desk in Weston; Norwood is just where benefits are coming from.

There were several questions about the organizational flow chart, including why the new LICSW (as opposed to the Health Director) wouldn't oversee the mental health contracts, given that she/he will have specific credentials: Health Director is in charge of staff, but could in the future revisit this question. There was a follow-up comment that, given all the demands on the Health Director's time with environmental health and other public health matters, it might make sense to put the mental health items under the new person.

- What to expect in Year 1
 - More service availability in Town
 - More hours for HRS
 - More supervision for social work
 - Better support for law enforcement
 - Create a three-year plan to bring to Advisory and others next year
 - Develop internship program
 - More formalized data gathering and measurement
 - First year progress report

There was a question when the term "we" is used, who is actually responsible: The BOS. There was a follow-up question confirming that these items will be presented next year to the BOS: Yes.

There was a question as to whether the BOS had formally voted on this proposal: Yes, the BOS voted 5-0 in support earlier tonight, and the BOH voted 3-0.

There was a comment by an Advisory member who had been concerned last month about this proposal being rushed, but is very pleased to see the provision for a one-year review, as in some ways so much is being asked of this new LICSW position.

6:59 p.m. Adjourn

Todd Cook made and Betsy Roberti seconded a motion to adjourn at the adjournment of tonight's session of Annual Town Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Items Reviewed During the Meeting

- *"Article 9: Social Services and Mental Health,"* Board of Selectmen and Board of Health, Slide Presentation (hard copy only), April 8, 2019