League of Women Voters of Winchester

Minutes of Steering Committee – Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Judy Blaine, Host – 15 Dix Street

Robin Wolf, Facilitator; Vicky Coccoluto, Sectretary. Attending: Michele Bartalini, Judy Blaine, Jan Dolan, Elinor Quill, Susan Woodward. Guests: Lynne Brodsky and Marilyn Mullane. Not attending: Lauren Costello, Mary McKenna, Patty Shepard, Winni Paskerian.

After a pleasant tour of Judy’s newly moved-in condo, the meeting was called to order soon after 7 pm.

Kitchen Tour/Fundraiser – Marilyn Mullane reviewed the results of the 2016 House Kitchen Tour fundraiser in preparation for a similar event in May of 2018. The previous Kitchen Tour, which produced a net income of about $4,000, was led by Marilyn and Nancy Schrock, who designed and published the descriptive booklet. The revenues were raised through 132 ticket sales at $25 each and advertisements included in the booklet. Tickets were sold through BookEnds, and the tour date was the Sunday of EnKa Fair weekend, from 12 noon to 4pm. Lessons learned from the event: the EnKa weekend Sunday date, the 6 house total, and the 4 hours worked well; we should continue selling through the “day of” the tour; and not consider free tickets for house volunteer greeters.

Marilyn is willing to Co-Chair 2018’s Tour, but asked for a Co-Chair from the Steering Committee. SC members Jan, Michelle, Vicky, Judy and Susan volunteered to join the Kitchen Tour committee, and Vicky will send Marilyn the volunteers’ emails. We will need to recruit a total of 36 volunteers for the Tour day (6 houses; two 2-hour shifts of 3 volunteers each). It is thought that with the good publicity the previous tour generated, 4 additional pages of booklet ads available this time, and booster email reminders coming from BookEnds--that we should be able to exceed the 2016 result. For now, the 2018 LWVW budget is assuming a conservative net figure of $3,500 for the fundraiser. We agreed on a date of Sunday, May 20, 2018 for the Kitchen Tour.

Minutes of July 13 Summer Planning Meeting were approved as amended to show that Judy Blaine joined the Communications Committee, assisting with website management. Robin will circulate the final copy of the July Minutes and Susan will post them on the website archive. In the future, Judy may take over the responsibility for archiving the minutes of meetings. Robin recommended that these “final” Minutes be converted to PDF files before sending.

Treasurer’s Report. Robin, as the new Treasurer, has reviewed the financial figures for both FY 2017 (6/30/17) and the proposed budget for the current year ending 6/30/18. The 2017 results are expected to show only minor differences from the estimated yearend results presented at the June Annual Meeting. At that meeting, there was also an extended discussion about a major fundraiser this year, which had not been factored into the budget for 2018. Members voted in favor of a Kitchen Tour fundraiser, and the 2018 budget was subsequently revised and circulated to the Steering Committee following the Annual Meeting. Robin has corrected an understated expense which was in the revised 2018 budget, and will present updated figures for both 2017 and 2018 at the next Steering Committee meeting. Robin recommended that someone be appointed as alternate Treasurer, if she should be unable to serve, and Judy volunteered to be the Treasurer back-up.

  

Membership. Vicky reported that membership has remained the same, at 78, as reported at the last meeting, and that the annual cycle of membership renewal for calendar 2018 will begin in late October.

Communications. Susan reported that she, Nancy Schrock, Vicky, and Judy had met yesterday with Maryann Haraldsen who was the creator of our current website about 5 years ago. Nancy has been reviewing the entire website for redundancies and consistency, and has filled in missing data about our activities in recent years for the League’s historical record. Susan manages the Facebook site set up by Maryann, and was also interested in developing an event-by-event file on the website of our activities, which will be informative to visitors to the site, as well as simplify the job of summarizing the year for the Annual Meeting report. Vicky’s need was Maryann’s professional skill to update the photos and text for our membership brochure and our League stationery, for which we propose to compensate Maryann.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS Monday, September 25- Nancy Brumback LWVMA, at Winchester Library – 7 pm. Her topic is “How to Speak so Your Legislators will Listen”. For publicity for this event, Vicky agreed to contact newspapers, either directly or through Lauren Costello. Susan agreed to check with Theresa Maturevich on the Library’s publicity plan, as well as the possibility for reaching students via high school distribution. Lynne Brodsky, a guest at the SC, suggested contacting the local party organizations, and took a copy of the flyer for that purpose. Susan agreed to send a blast to our membership/contacts. Vicky will plan for a membership/greeting table at the event.

Wednesday, October 4 – “Health Benefits of Renewable Energy Choices”- Jonathon Buonocore, HSPH – Winchester Town Hall – 6:30 refreshments; 7:00 pm program. Ruth Trimarchi, our member who has been central to the organization of this program, co-sponsored by LWVMA, Wright-Locke Farm and Winchester Farmers Market, has requested help with refreshments and greeters. She asked for 200 cookies plus paper napkins, and other co-sponsors will provide beverage. Elinor, Robin, Judy, Jan and Vicky volunteered to provide 2-4 dozen cookies each, and Susan volunteered to be a greeter. Vicky will email membership for other volunteers. There will probably be a single table with brochure material from all the sponsoring organizations.

The Town Center informational program, initially scheduled for October 22 at the Jenks, has been postponed pending updated information expected from the state transportation/funding authorities, according to earlier word from Mary McKenna.

Thursday, November 2 – “How to run for office in Winchester!” – Winchester Library – 7 pm. Robin is the lead on this progam, and so far Stacey Irizarra, Joyce Westner and Mariano Goluboff have agreed to serve on a panel discussion. Robin will prepare a handout on what is required to be a campaign Treasurer. Elinor suggested that Maryellen Lannon, Town Clerk, would be a good addition, and Robin agreed to contact her as planning proceeds.

Discussion followed regarding ways to boost publicity for all our programs through other Town organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary, and the new groups that were formed subsequent to the last Presidential election. Elinor agreed to pursue this question with the Chamber, and Michele will touch base with a contact in the Rotary Club.

The Winchester Residents Facebook page was also cited as a publicity outlet, and Lynn mentioned that the activist groups also have established Facebook sites.

     

Finally, it was mentioned that an email has been received from Karen Price of the LWVMA announcing a Town Hall event in Newton where Senator Markey, who has just returned from a trip to the Korean Penninsula, will be speaking. The Steering Committee agreed that the rest of our League should be alerted to this event, and Vicky agreed to follow up with an email blast.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted, Vicky Coccoluto

Calendar

Sunday, September 14 – “Extreme Events and Climate Change” – NE Aquarium – 7 pm SOLD OUT! Sunday, September 17 – Town Hall Event – Sen. Markey, speaker – Newton HS – 6 pm

Monday, September 18 – “How to be an effective citizen lobbyist” – Colleen Kirby, LWVMA legislative specialist – UU Church, Arlington – 7 pm

Monday, September 25 – “How to speak so your legislators will listen” – Nancy Brumback, LWVMA Legislative Action Committee – Winchester Library – 7 pm

Tuesday, September 26 – National Voter Registration Day

Wednesday, October 4 – “Health benefits of Renewable Energy” – Dr. Jonathan Buonocore, HSPH – Winchester Town Hall – 6:30 pm-refreshments; 7:00 pm-Program

Tuesday, October 10 – LWVW Steering Committee meeting at Jan Dolan’s – 7 pm – Vicky Coccoluto, Facilitator; Judy Blaine, Secretary

Saturday, October 14 – League Leader lunch – 1st Baptist Church, Worcester – 9:30 – 2pm Tuesday, October 17 – Scharfman Grant deadline. Next deadlines: 1/16/18, 4/17/18, 6/8/18

Thursday, October 19 – “Greening the Grid – Preparing for our Clean Energy Future” – Memorial Library, LWV Lexington – 7 pm

Tuesday, October 24 – LWVMA Day on the Hill – Great Hall, MA State House – 9:30-noon Thursday, November 2 – “How to Run for Office in Winchester!” – Winchester Library – 7 pm

Tuesday, November 14 – LWVW Steering Committee meeting at Robin Wolf’s – 7pm – Judy Blaine, Facilitator; Patty Shepard, Secretary

Thursday, December 7 – Moveable Feast for Town Employees – Winchester Library – 11:30-1:30 pm

Tuesday, December 12 – LWVW Steering Committee at WinCAM ofc – Susan Woodward, Host; Patty Shepard, Facilitator; Jan Dolan, Secretary

    