

**Winchester League of Women Voters
Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee
Tuesday February 12, 2019**

Location – by Conference Call, Winchester MA

Host – FreeConferenceCall.com, kindly set up by Patty

Facilitator – Patty Shepard

Secretary – Lynne Brodsky

Attending – Patty Shepard, Jan Dolan, Meredith Crowley, Lynne Brodsky, Jeanette Kolodziej, Robin Wolf (in and out of the call, due to technical difficulties)

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM.

Member check-in time

Minutes – the minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting were approved with some corrections.

Membership report – Formal membership report deferred to next month. The new member booklets provided by the State League can be distributed at the Farmers Market. Vicky has decided to continue managing Membership for now.

Steering Committee – We need to find someone to replace Gail, who has resigned.

Communication report – Our PayPal account does not seem to be operative at this time. For now, Robin will delete the link, and ask prospective members to send their dues via the Post Office box.

We have switched our yearly contract with Wild Apricot to a plan that is \$50 per month. That way we can leave at any time, should we decide on another vendor. Denise Goluboff is looking in to this. Perhaps she can make a presentation at the April meeting. Patty will invite her to the April SC Meeting.

Treasurer's Report – We accepted the Treasurer's Report that Robin sent us earlier by email. There were technical difficulties with the conference call, and she was not able to participate for the entire time.

Voter Services Update – None was presented at this meeting.

Banner – Jeanette reported that Fast Signs is making the banner, which is the smaller size of 4X15 feet, previously quoted at \$360 for the banner, and \$75 for each patch. Jeanette will check with DPW about the date to post the banner, previously scheduled by Judy.

Consensus Study – Robin previously sent us the report, which she will send into the State League. Robin was not on the call during this part of the discussion.

Program updates–

Spring Book Read – Jeanette has identified the book “All the Real Indians Died Off; 20 Other Myths about Native Americans” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Whitaker for the spring book read. She will coordinate a date, and ask Bookends to order some copies (discounted price to book group readers).

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – This week Patty, Jeanette, and Lynne participated in a conference call with members of MAWOCC (Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition). They have a website which lays out their mission, which is largely congruent with parts of the League’s mission. We brainstormed about how we might hold an event that promotes our intersecting goals. They have set up a shared document which can be used for further brainstorming. We will conference again with them in the near future.

100th Anniversary – The year 2020 will be the 100th anniversary of the national as well as the Winchester League of Women Voters. Nancy Shrock has been working on programming. We will defer further detailed discussion of this until Judy returns. Meanwhile the Winchester Historical Society is doing a presentation about the “Suffragettes”. We will invite our membership. Patty raised the concern that a lot of the formal programming on this topic, as it currently is formulated, omits the perspective of people who are not White.

Candidate Forums – Lynne updated the group about progress. The event will be at the Jenks Center on Sunday March 3, and again is made possible by a generous grant from the Cummings Foundation. We will start at 1 pm with the Select Board debate. Part 2 will be a discussion of the proposed Proposition 2 ½ override from differing perspectives. These will include a general overview, the students and schools, homeowners, seniors, and Merry recommended adding the Municipal services and employees other than the schools, and provided a contact in this regard. Several candidates who are running unopposed for some offices will also participate. The third part will be a chance for voters to mingle with all candidates, including those for Town Meeting, to meet with staff who are working on the Master Plan, to learn about it, and to have informal office hours with our state legislators. We hope to end around 4 pm. We reviewed currently outstanding parts and tasks of this forum.

State and National League newsletters and activities – Jan attended a meeting of the Metro West Field Service. Needham is planning an event about women suffrage, and is working with the Girl Scouts on this. Watertown has an active program, even though they have only 5 members. The State League is working on a number of issues, some of which are elections, money in politics, criminal justice reform, women’s issues, climate change, the environment, transportation.

Patty indicated that our chapter needs to participate in a Program Planning session for the State League. She will set up a Google poll for us to pick a meeting time.

The State League Convention is in Westford on Friday night June 7, and Saturday June 8. Patty will work on recruiting persons from the steering committee or general membership who might attend.

We reviewed a bulletin about miscellaneous activities from national and state Leagues. Some of the items are mentioned in other parts of this Minutes document. LWVMA will host a Webinar about Ranked Choice Voting on Tuesday February 26 at 7 pm. You can link to it through the memo that Patty sent. There is a student video contest about climate change. Patty will ask Lauren to put it in the local papers; Jan will take a poster over to WinCam and Patty will submit an announcement to WHSPFA Newsletter. The State office has moved. Their address and phone number are provided.

Annual Meeting planning – This presently is scheduled for June 8, but we need to change it, to allow someone to go to the State League meeting, which is scheduled for that Friday evening and Saturday. The annual meeting must be before July 1, which is the deadline for budgeting for the next fiscal year. We discussed format, the consensus seeming to be that people like including the annual civic award as part of the annual meeting. We formed a subcommittee of Patty, Jan, Merry, and later Robin to work on the annual civic award. It was decided to reschedule annual meeting for 6/15 and Patty agreed to reserve the Sanborn House for this date.

Upcoming events –

Program Planning Meeting ?

Candidate Forum, 3/3/19

Last day to register to vote 3/6/19

Town Election 3/26/19

Spring Town Meeting – 4/29/19

Spring Book Read ?

Winchester Town Day Booth - 6/1/19

LWVMA 2019 Convention in Westford – 6/7/19 – 6/8/19

LWVW Annual Meeting and Civic Award Presentation 6/15/19 Sanborn House

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Brodsky