

LWVW PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020

Attendees: Lynne Bronsky, Susan Carney, Kim Foley, Jean Herbert, Jeanette Kolodziej, Amanda Littell-Clark, Meredith Mason-Crowley, Marilyn Mullane, and Michele Nathan

Facilitator: Jean Herbert

Secretary: Marilyn Mullane

- I. Informal 10 AM Check in while SC members gathered over Zoom.
- II. Marilyn agreed to take minutes.
- III. Members reviewed contents of notebooks prior to our meeting. Michele had a question about FB posting. LWVMA and LWVUS postings are a given. For non-League posts, perhaps we should have one or two individuals review and concur. **Amanda did take a LWVMA FB training module and will share guidance on what to post.**
- IV. Ask for comments about Annual Meeting - all applauded Jeanette facilitation of our first ever Zoom Annual Meeting!
- V. Assign leaders for ongoing annual programs – For most of our traditional programming, we agreed that the upcoming year would be different and driven by a guiding principle of can it be done virtually and effectively. The more pressing ones were addressed below with the remainder deferred to a later date.
 - a. Farmers' Market – September/October. **Jean to contact Fred** and arrange for League table since the venue is outside, we can socially distance and wear masks. Marilyn volunteer to help Jean.
 - b. Moveable Feast – December. Can decide closer to the date. May pursue boxed lunches we can drop off to the various Town offices.
 - c. Candidates' Debates – Lynne. Our State Representative Michael Day is being challenged by Independent Elizabeth Harrah in the November general election and both agreed to a debate. **Lynne will check to see if a socially distanced debate is possible at WINCAM.**
 - d. Day on the Hill – April
 - e. Voter Registration – at high school, elsewhere – Lynne had been approached by Susan Verdicchio regarding partnering with the Network for Social Justice and its student interns in terms of a high school registration drive. Marilyn suggested a virtual registration drive given the pandemic and perhaps Connect & Commit, a high school club that the League had partnered with in the past, was another possible group that could help. Amanda mentioned September 22nd National Voter Registration Day as a possible date and the SC agreed. **Merry, Jeanette and Amanda agreed to be our voter registration working group for the September 22nd program.** The SC

approved a special banner for this event. **Jeanette Kolodziej will explore purchasing said banner for our September 22nd virtual voter registration drive as well as an appropriate hanging date with the Town.** The group will also check in with Town Clerk Mary Ellen Lannon. Jeanette also pointed out that we need to consider paper registration forms for those that aren't able to register electronically.

- f. MetroWest Meetings – January and June – (Jean and ?)
- g. Town Day – June
- h. Annual Meeting - June
- i. Civic Leadership Award
- j. Annual Book Read
- k. Other??

VI. Assignments for other ongoing items

- a. Membership - Vicky and Kim
- b. Banner – Jeanette. **Jeanette to contact Town Hall for hanging our banner for the September 1 Primary** as well as the November 3 General Election. She will **also arrange for a patch** for the September 1st Primary date.
- c. Website – Amanda
- d. Communications/Media – Amanda, Lauren, Susan, Vicky
- e. Spokesperson – To be pursued. Lauren Costello is a possibility, however, the ByLaw duties and description need to be conveyed to her.
- f. DEI – Patty Shepard
- g. Liaison with State activities – website, council, conventions, consensus studies, etc. - Marilyn
- h. Other??

VII. Fundraising Options

Marilyn – Jimmy Tingle Event. Marilyn reported that prior to canceling April 4th event, 35 tickets totaling \$2625 had been purchased and \$465 was donated. In addition, both the Winchester Star and WINCAM interviews were completed. Seven raffle items had been secured with five pending. No news yet from the Jenks Center yet about the rescheduled September 25th date so it's too early to postpone or cancel our event. If the Jenks Center does open with half capacity, the group decided it would not be worth doing since we would just cover Jimmy Tingle's fee. We also decided against doing a virtual fundraiser with Tingle.

Marilyn will pursue a \$130 refund from LaPatisserie for the cake. And, once we are contractually able to cancel, Jean will reach out to ticket holders about possible refunds.

Other ideas - Defer any fundraising 2020 - 2021 given minimal expected expenses this year and member concerns regarding attending such an event during a pandemic and before a vaccine is available. Decided a post-Covid and belated 100th anniversary party will be something to celebrate!

VIII. Report results of the member survey from Annual Meeting – Amanda. There were 13 responses to the survey. The top four were as follows: Protect/Expand Voting Rights; \$\$ in Politics; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Civic Education.

IX. Other ideas received for future programs
Lynne

- a. Get our own Zoom account - SC voted to purchase our own Zoom account. **Jean to purchase and explore how to share hosting on Zoom.**
- b. Another “Basics of Government A – Z”. Part II for Non-Elected Committees was suggested. A spring date was suggested.
- c. Debates – Mike Day and Elizabeth Harrah confirmed.

Amanda

- d. Election reform legislation – (vote by mail, rank choice, etc.) education for citizens and how to get involved before November. **Amanda agreed to come up with some guidance that would be Winchester specific for our website.** Other suggestions included interviewing Town Clerk Mary Ellen Lannon on the upcoming changes. **Lynne indicated that she would reach out to Mary Ellen.** Another possibility would be a LWVMA expert briefing.
- e. Coordinating LWVW communications (Facebook, Twitter, website, etc.). **Amanda indicated that she would reach out to members and friends** to remind them of the various way we communicate with appropriate links.

Several

- f. Resume Hot Topics series - Referendum Questions (Ranked Voting and Right to Repair) were suggested a possible topic. See IX.d above.
- g. High-profile speaker in the spring (Dan Kennedy, someone from Schlesinger, local author Linda Rossetti-“Women and Transitions,” professor Jean learned about in Newton-“Has the Constitution Stood the Test of Time?”
- h. Review By-laws (last amended 2017) - **subgroup led by Jean Herbert will convene to discuss h - j.**
- i. Should we change term limits for better continuity?
- j. Review all Policy Statement, Guidelines, etc. (located in back of notebook)

X. Reports on various meetings members attended or suggest

Dotty Burstein – Council 2020 (Patty Shepard attended as a voting member)

“There were 102 delegates from 35 Leagues for this virtual meeting. The main action we members of the LWV should take right now is to let Jason Lewis or Pat Jehlen know that we want them to support S2755.” (Jean – this has been voted on already by now)

“The main speaker could not attend and was replaced by Ricardo Ramirez of the Brennon Center for Justice. He was very good. This Council was important because of the emphasis on voting and plans for how things will be implemented in the upcoming elections. I must say things look fragile and I am very worried about voter suppression in certain states.”

Ruth Trimarchi – Update on Winchester 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The Select Board and Town Meeting voted to accept the plan, along with all other reports. You can see the plan on the Town Meeting website. Ruth is interested in collaborating with us if our plans coincide, with the goal of raising public awareness of what the CAP says.

Jean Herbert – MetroWest Meeting (to be submitted later)

XI. Assign roles for the first several SC meetings (no host needed while still on Zoom)

	<u>Facilitator</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
September 8	Marilyn	Sue
October 13	Sue	Jeanette
November 10	Jeanette	Kim

XII. Other Business - the SC considered sharing the Greater Boston Interfaith In District Zoom meetings regarding proposed police reform legislation with our members but decided against it. While the LWVMA does have positions on police reform, it has not endorsed said legislation.

XIII. Adjourned at noon.

NOTE: At September 8 SC meeting, we need to approve minutes from May 12 SC meeting.
Jean will get the minutes from Robin for approval at our next meeting.