

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 7:00 PM

ZOOM HOST: Marilyn Mullane FACILITATOR: Caroline Shamu SECRETARY: Lynne Brodsky

Attending: Lynne Brodsky, Merry Crowley, Tra Evrigenis, Jeanette Kolodziej, Amanda Littell-Clark, Marilyn Mullane, Michele Nathan, Caroline Shamu

Meeting called to order 7:08 PM – Meeting adjourned 8:58 PM

A. Monthly Items

1. We reviewed and approved minutes from prior meeting.
2. Treasurer's report as provided by Jean Herbert was reviewed and accepted. There are only two changes since last month (indicated in red in the report document): the Certificate of Deposit balance has been updated to include interest earned in the last month and there is income from one additional member @ \$65.
3. Membership – Sonya has been shadowing Vicky and Kim regarding Membership. The annual mailing has not gone out yet, but we can renew on the website. Sonya will forward a membership update.
4. Voter Services – discussion of a voter registration event a month before the Town election. Such an event would be mid-February. If the Votes Act has passed by that time, we might host a separate event about the act that would be scheduled and programmed specifically for first time voters. We acknowledged that scheduling and attracting students can be a challenge.
5. Communications and Media
 - a. Update re Communications/Social Media (Amanda) – Our League is “liking” events and posting them on our website. We also are notifying our membership by email about events. In the light of recent revelations about Facebook, we reflected on our continued use of this platform. We are using it as it is meant to be used, and not in a harmful fashion, so will continue to use it. We discussed expanding to Instagram, which is used by a younger demographic than typically uses Facebook. We might revisit this at a later date.
 - b. Update and demo of Slack (Caroline) – Slack is a way to hold conversations on line with a closed group. Amanda, Sonya, Tra, and Caroline have been connected in Slack. Caroline sent the rest of us the link to join Slack. We worked on getting ourselves up and running on Slack in real time during this meeting.
6. Liaisons to LWVMA and Metro/West – LWVMA notifications go to all membership, while League Leaders notifications go just to leadership – the SC and one or two others. Recent events highlighted included 4 programs on domestic violence and the October 27 Day on the Hill. We also will notify

membership about upcoming events held by other groups that align with our priorities. We discussed events organized by the State and National League. We all receive emails about these events, and can attend any of them. We are encouraged to report back to the SC about what we learn, and what action we can take that result from these events.

B. Reports on Current or Future Events/Programs

1. Town Day September 18 was organized by Michele. We had a number of League volunteers, and made some new contacts.
2. October 16 Farmer's Market – being organized by Jean. Lynne will bring League supplies. All “tabling” slots are now staffed. Caroline and Lynne will ensure that we have adequate copies available of the Winchester Affordable Housing one-pager and flyers advertising the October 27.
3. Housing Partnership Coalition - Lynne, Caroline, Patty Shepard are on the Education Subcommittee on this coalition that is organized by the Network for Social Justice. The Network and the Subcommittee drew up a flyer to distribute at Town Day. We briefly discussed our policy for cosponsoring an event, which includes being listed as a cosponsor on all publicity about the event.
4. We are working on a forum entitled “Demystifying Affordable Housing” being cosponsored by the League and the Network for Social Justice. This will be on October 27 7:30 to 9:00 PM. We discussed the content of the event and the requirements related to our policy on co-sponsorship of events. We discussed disseminating the information about this event,
-LWVW letter of support for a NFSJ application to CHAPA (Citizen's Housing and Planning Association) for funding to organize a Municipal Engagement Initiative in Winchester to address affordable housing; <https://www.chapa.org>; letter due 10/22/21. Marilyn has written a public letter of our League's position about affordable housing. Caroline and Lynne are assisting to modify this letter so that it will be ready for CHAPA.
5. Non-Citizen Voting Update (Marilyn) – postponed from fall to spring Town Meeting. We discussed possibly holding an educational forum about non-citizen voting.
6. Harvard Case Method Workshop – Jeanette continues to work with Chris Kurhajetz about the format, content, and timing of this workshop.
7. WHS Women's Studies Class – Tra is working with Sonya to discuss her journey as a professional woman and immigrant with Tra's Women's Studies class at the high school.
8. VOTES Act - The Senate passed the Votes Act on October 6. Lobby Day for the Massachusetts House is October 13 at noon. Several of us are attending (virtually).
9. Moveable Feast - Merry has researched options for the Moveable Feast, and provided us with a handout describing her extensive research. We are constrained by costs and COVID safety. We also might want to consider common food allergies in planning the menu. Merry will do further research with local vendors and with the Town.
10. LWVW December 14 public meeting – the speaker will be Ruth Trimarchi, addressing Winchester Climate Action Plan and climate change as a health issue. Marilyn will discuss further with Ruth. Ruth also mentioned Ken Pruitt, recently hired as Winchester's Sustainability Director. We may consider inviting him for a future program.

11. Other Programming Possibilities for LWVW for the second half of the year

- a. Basics of Government A – Z [To be addressed in November meeting]
- b. Updating Membership Brochure (early 2022): Marilyn, Sonya, Vicki, and Kim are working on this. More to follow.
- c. High profile Speaker at Annual Meeting
- d. Annual Book Read - defer further discussion
- e. Hot Topics – defer further discussion

C. New Business

Marilyn brought to our attention a League Leaders Leadership Development event in November

D. Upcoming Meetings

Date	Facilitator	Secretary	Host
November 9	Lynne	Amanda	Marilyn (Zoom)
December 14	Amanda (to be confirmed)	Merry	Marilyn (Zoom)

Further discussion of logistics of the December 14 public meeting.