

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER
Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, 7:00 PM
MINUTES

ZOOM HOST: Marilyn Mullane FACILITATOR: Sonya Rao SECRETARY: Caroline Shamu
Also attending: Lynne Brodsky, Jeanette Kolodziej, Tra Evrigenis, Merry Mason-Crowley, Michele Nathan,
Amanda Littel-Clark

Meeting opened at 7:05p

A. Go over Steering Committee meeting Ground Rules (item held over from last meeting)

Read by Sonya

Key points: Meetings start/end on time, active listening and participation by attendees, no sidebars during the meeting, participants should demonstrate willingness to reach consensus on decision issues, it's very important to stick to the agenda of the meeting and the LWVW ground rules for meetings. [The full list of SC meeting Ground Rules is in the SC binders in the *By-Laws, Policies, and Procedures* section.

B. Monthly Items

1. Review and approve minutes from prior meeting. (All)
Minutes approved, with one last-minute edit suggested by Marilyn.

2. Treasurer's report (Jean H.)

Jean will send Treasurer's report in advance regularly. One item to note: LWVW paid two years of fees for Wild Apricot this year, covering our Wild Apricot fees for 2020-21 and 2021-22; Robin Wolf submitted for reimbursement two years of invoices at once (for \$540 and \$550; the total paid is \$1090). The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

3. Membership (Kim F.) Deferred to the next meeting.

4. Communications and Media

a. Update re Comms/Social Media: Amanda reported that things will continue to operate as they did last year. For email blasts to LWVW members, please send the exact text of the email to Amanda; she will edit a bit and format the email, but she does not always feel comfortable contributing in a major way to development of the content of these emails.

b. Update re Slack: A few LWVW users have been invited by Caroline so far (Amanda, Sonya, Tra). All are on the LWVW Slack channel. We will experiment together over the next month and Caroline et al will do a presentation about how to use Slack to the SC at the October meeting. In the meantime, Caroline will invite the rest of the SC in case they want to join the experiment before the next meeting.

C. Reports on Current or Future Events/Programs

1. Town Day (Sept 18) Update: Michele is coordinating with Jean to set up the booth and line up volunteers. Vicki Coccoluto will help in the booth. The supplies and materials are all set; Lynne has additional materials as well. We need a few more volunteers.

2. October Farmer's Market: Jean H. asked which October date we would like. We requested October 16. Sonya will let Jean know.

3. Housing Partnership Coalition update: Marilyn provided an update about Waterfield Task Force meetings so far. The Public comment phase on the Waterfield Development is occurring now and extends at least through Sept 16, but letters can likely be submitted through Sept 20. The SC will send to LWVW members, via an email blast, suggested wording for a public comment letter to the Town Manager and Select Board ; Lynne will send suggested wording for Amanda to send out.

LWVW is also helping with the Housing Partnership Coalition: Lynne, Caroline, and Patty Shepard are participating in the Education sub-committee. So far, main topics of discussion have been about providing educational materials about affordable housing that can be handed out at events in town (such as Town Day and Farmers' Market). Town committees are also planning some forums addressing affordable housing and we do not want to duplicate or conflict with those efforts.

4. Non-Citizen Voting Update: This might be presented as a warrant to Town Meeting on Nov. 1, 2021. Marilyn is working with the Network for Social Justice, Susan V and Mary Ellen Lannon to organize a local forum to educate the community about the topic.

5. Harvard Case Method Workshop: Jeanette reported that she has been in touch with Chris Kurhajetz re: the community presentation, following from the HCM workshop attend by Chris and his WHS colleague, Anne Marie Edenhofner. Chris's presentation would likely focus on the Citizen's United case. Anne Marie may collaborate on this presentation or may develop a separate one; Jeanette will ask Chris about this. The teachers would like to do their presentation in January, the week before MLK Day. The SC agreed that this timing is good. The presentation should be filmed by WinCam or held via zoom (and recorded by WinCam). We would advertise this to our members. We can produce a flyer, taking the lead for advertising. The flyer could be circulated at the high school, too. Jeannette will follow-up with Chris to get more information about his plans for the presentation. Marilyn offered to help Jeannette.

6. WHS Women's Studies Class: Tra would like to have someone from LWVW present to her WHS Women's Studies class about the League and individual involvement in LWV. Sonya offered to speak to the class on behalf of the League; she said that December would be a good time for her presentation. Sonya will outline some ideas and present them to the SC for input in advance of her presentation.

7. Update re LWVW Annual Survey: So far, Amanda has received 25 responses out of 100. This survey provides guidance for LWVW re: our programming for the year, it is not binding. Amanda sent around results of the survey on August 25. So far, we think that our plans for 2021-22 are consistent with the survey input from our members. The top three issues ranked by respondents were:

- Improve voting, e.g., same-day voter registration, making permanent vote-by-mail, etc. (11 votes)
- Educate and advocate for affordable housing in Winchester (11)
- Address the climate emergency (10)

We discussed that our involvement in these areas (e.g Improve voting) can be at the local or state level; we don't have to run all of the relevant programming ourselves. For example, LWVW members might participate in the Oct 6 Virtual Lobby Day at the State House and report back.

Michele and Merry noted that we should ask members to participate in the Day of Action about the MA Votes act; we could send out an email blast about this, too. The question was posed: Should we reach out to LWVW members only for these programs, or should we reach out to other local groups as well to encourage their participation? After discussion, we decided that we will send emails and make posts on social media about these

events and LWVW members could forward our emails/posts to other organizations and ask the other organization to send to their members. Marilyn pointed out that League lobbying days are only for League members.

8. Other Programming Possibilities for LWVW for the second half of the year were discussed:

a. Basics of Government A – Z: LWVW did this ~ two years ago, a few weeks before a session of Town Meeting. It was as a panel of heads of elected Town-wide boards and was very successful. A sequel could be about Town-wide volunteer committees, for which members are appointed, and how to join them. Other topics are also possible (eg How to run for public office), but maybe we should re-do the previous topic because it was so successful; a good topic, if the event happens near Town Meeting, would be an explanation of what happens at Spring/Fall Town meeting, too. This type of event is very easy to produce. Lynne is willing to help organize. Good timing for this might be on a Sunday afternoon in the early spring—maybe before Spring Town Meeting. We will re-visit timing for this event later in the fall.

b. Hot Topics: Merry saw an announcement about Rosemarie Day, who was very involved in implementing the MA Affordable Care Act and who recently wrote a book. Rosemary could be a good speaker for our group; maybe an interview event. We will consider this idea later.

c. High profile Speaker at Annual Meeting

d. Winchester 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update—We might ask Ruth Trimarchi to help with this. Marilyn will reach out to see if Ruth will do an update. A specific topic might be Climate Change as a public health issue. Perhaps this would be a good topic for our Dec 14 Public Meeting. Marilyn will reach out to Ruth.

e. Annual Book Read

f. Updating Membership Brochure: We realized last spring, in preparing for Farmer’s Market, that our LWVW Membership Brochure is out of date. Marilyn is happy to work with Vicki and Kim and others to do this in the new year. Sonya is willing to help, too.

g. VOTES ACT: Michele would like to send out an email blast to members about the Wed Oct 6 (noon-1:30) Virtual Lobby Day see <https://lwwma.org/calendar/#event=67727773;instance=20211006120000>. We already have some information on our LWVW website about the VOTES Act. Amanda can add information about the Oct 6 Lobby Day. After this event, SC or LWVW can choose to make phone calls to ask other local organizations to send out information about the VOTES act.

D. Upcoming Meetings

Date	Facilitator	Secretary	Host
September 14	Sonya	Caroline	Marilyn (Zoom)
October 12	Caroline	Lynne	Marilyn (Zoom)

For November 9, Lynne can be Facilitator and Amanda will do the minutes that date.

For Dec 14, Amanda might be able to be Facilitator--we can finalize this later. Merry will be Secretary on Dec. 14.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01p.