

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER
Steering Committee Meeting, December 14, 2021 - via Zoom
MEETING MINUTES

FACILITATOR: Amanda Littell-Clark **SECRETARY:** Meredith Mason-Crowley

ATTENDEES:

Steering Committee: Marilyn Mullane, Meredith Mason-Crowley, Caroline Shamu, Michele Nathan, Lynne Brodsky, Amanda Littell-Clark, Sonya Rao, Jeanette Kolodziej, Trā Evrigenis

Treasurer: Jean Herbert

Membership: Kim Foley

Guest Speakers: Ruth Trimarchi, Ken Pruitt

Amanda called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

A. Selected Monthly Items

- Minutes – The November minutes were review and approve – All
- Treasurer’s Report: Reviewed and Accepted

Jean Herbert- Jean reported that \$1395 in dues came in since last month. Marilyn reminded us that in our proposed budget we had a stretch goal of 100 members total (6 more than last year). Jean said that in order to meet that goal each of us would need to start soliciting new members. Marilyn also asked Jean about the Win Cam and Chamber of Commerce dues. Jean said we will not be billed for those until after the first of the year.

- Membership Report

Kim reported generally the dues’ reminder letter gets the best response. We had responses from 59 paying members, 1 lifetime member, and 1 student member. In addition, Kim reported five new members joined in response to the letter. Next step could be to place targeted phone calls to current members.

B. Current or Future Programs

- Moveable Feast – Merry Crowley- The Moveable Feast was held December 9, at the Winchester Town Hall Auditorium. Merry worked with the Board of Health and Town Manager’s office to put in place many COVID protocols, including signing up for a shift. There were 65 attendees. Many staff attended the in-person luncheon while others preferred to pack and take their lunches back to their offices. There were ten LWV volunteers who assisted with preparation and serving the luncheon. DPW was enlisted to source tables from throughout the town to set up the auditorium to maintain social distance. Appropriate thank you notes were sent out, including Stop & Shop for their

donation of cupcakes and cookies. Overall, the event was a success and a good time was had by all.

- The Case Study Project, spearheaded by Harvard Professor David Moss, is designed to teach high school students' history, government, and civics using the case study method. The goal is to deepen students' understanding of American democracy. Chris Kurhajetz, chair of WHS Social Studies Department and Anne Marie Edenhofner, Service-Learning Coordinator, both trained in the Harvard Case Method at a workshop last summer. They are now teaching the Voting Rights Act of 1965 using the case methodology in their classes. SC leads Jeanette and Marilyn have been working with Chris and Anne Marie on both the date and program they will moderate for us based on the case study method.

On January 26, 2022, they will present "Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights: A case study in expanding democracy," as a community wide program focusing on the Voting Rights Acts of 1965. This program will not be recorded because copyrighted materials will be part of the presentation. There are about 20 pages of reading for presentation participants only. Anyone wanting to attend will need to register ahead of time on the LWVW website to receive a Zoom link.

B. Speakers Ruth Trimarchi and Ken Pruitt. Topic: Climate Change as a Health Issue

- Ruth, who is a co-chair of the Climate Action Committee presented a review of "Winchester's 2020 Climate Action Plan." She then introduced Ken Pruitt, Winchester's new Sustainability Director. Ruth pointed out hiring Ken is the culmination of all the work and primary recommendation of the Climate Action Committee since completing a review and update of the 2011 CAP. Ruth presented an overview of the Climate Action Plan which targeted goals for Winchester. In the discussion that followed, she and Ken described reducing the carbon footprint in Winchester will be through focus on the residential component of the community in part because this represents 76% of carbon pollution in Winchester. Several topics were discussed on how to help residents reach goals to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, including increased use of solar power, and striving toward all electric. See Ruth's PowerPoint slides. [Climate Action Plan](#)

C. Other Business

- **January 25th Referendum Vote on Vocational School** The LWV has been asked by the Town Clerk Mary Ellen Lannon to help get out the vote, and Select Board Member Susan Verdicchio, to provide educational literature regarding this referendum vote in January 2022 for a proposed new Northeast Regional Vocational Technical School in Wakefield. Winchester is one of twelve feeder communities. There has been a plan in place for the last two to three years to build a new and expanded vocational school. Town meeting took a vote of support for the project at the Fall Town Meeting. Marilyn researched the LWVMA position on vocational education which is in support of equal access to education. Marilyn will continue to pursue the reasons for negative votes by Chelsea and Saugus. Barring an equity reason for their no vote, LWVW could advocate a "yes" vote based on our State position.

- Next Meeting- January 11, 2022 Send agenda items to Merry to post for this meeting.

D. Other Programming Possibilities

Basics of Govt A-Z – Lynne - possible topic of Town Meeting

Updating Membership Brochure – revisit in Jan. 2021

Upcoming Schedule for 2021-22 Meetings 7:00-9:00 PM

Date	Zoom Host	Facilitator	Recorder	Notes
January 11	Marilyn	Merry	Sonya	
February 8	Marilyn	Sonya	Tra	
March 8	Marilyn	Tra	Marilyn	Public Meeting
April 12				
May 9				Happy BD Lynne
June				Annual Meeting

December 14, 2021 Meeting adjourned 9:03 PM