

League of Women Voters of Winchester

Minutes of Steering Committee meeting – Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Jan Dolan, host – 7 Lakeview Terrace

Facilitator, Vicky Coccoluto; Secretary, Susan Woodward, Mary McKenna, Patty Shepard, Elinor Quill, Nancy Schrock, Ruth Trimarchi, Lauren Costello. Not present: Judy Blaine, Robin Wolf

Vicki called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Minutes of the October 25 meeting were approved as amended. Vicky will send final copy to Nancy to archive.

Treasurer's report by Nancy. The budget is year-to-date. Nancy will apply to En Ka to ask for \$700.00 reimbursement for the banners we hang at election time. Each banner costs \$200 to hang. Money for a replacement banner in reserve. Total of 4 hangings and one new banner. Overall costs to the budget were lower than anticipated. Little over \$4,000 in total expenses. We can move ahead with program costs. This budget represents 5 months.

Membership – Vicky reported 76 active members for 2016. Out of 76, 31 have renewed. Seems like a slow response but this is not unusual. Hoping for 45 more renewals. Gail O'Reilly has rejoined, and we have two brand new members: Michelle Bartalini and Denise Goluboff.

Communications – Nancy added our Facebook page to the Website to make it more easily accessible to all the members. Nancy, Lauren, and Susan will meet with Jo-Ann to talk about contacts for outreach.

Moveable Feast – Thursday, December 1. Jan showed us the invitation sent to all departments designed by a secretary in the Selectmen's office. Chief Nash and his crew are ordering and setting up tables and chairs. Susan is sending pictures and Chief Nash will do a slideshow. Members of the Board of Selectmen and representatives of the Friends of Winter Pond have been invited, and we are adding an additional tray of food to the order made last year at d'Agostino's. Vicki is picking up the cake donated by Stop and Shop. We need knives and serving spoons. We are presenting our Civic Leadership Award for 2016 to Judie Muggia during the Feast. Gloria Legvold and Sally Quinn will speak about Judy, as will Lance Grenzebach. Susan will present the calendar gift. Lunch will run from 11:30 – 1:30.

Charter School Consensus Meeting –Date is Sunday afternoon January 8, 2017, 1 –4 p. at Sanborn house, in collaboration with Carolyn Parsons from the Arlington League. Patty asked Nancy if Sanborn will set up tables and chairs for the meeting. Nancy said yes and that she will be in contact with someone from Sanborn. The power point will introduce the meeting and its objectives. Patty will send a copy of the slideshow to the board. Susan will read the slides. She will also send out a second email the week of December 12 as a reminder to the members of the schedule that day and what they need to do to prepare. A last reminder will be sent I out

to all on December 26. Participants need to respond by December 29. Consensus Study is for Massachusetts only. Patty stated that the questions are straightforward. Robin volunteered to be the recorder. Jan and Elinor volunteered for the set-up and clean-up. Nancy agreed to take notes on the easel and to locate some paper for that purpose. Brynne Gorman from the MA League office is keeping a list of where the various Leagues are having this Consensus meeting in case people from other Leagues wish to attend. Patty will send our info to Brynne.

Hot Topic – Downtown Winchester Train Station - Mary McKenna - coming up with a vision that Mary, David Anderson, architect, and Lance Grenzeback can present at a public meeting in April. There are 6 firms involved, 3 of which are landscapers. All are part of the think tank who is brainstorming this project. The sites in question are Waterfield St., N. Main St., and Shore Rd. The elevated train work is expected to begin work in the spring of 2018. Designs are in the planning stages to put lighting, tile work, and street work on Laraway St. which runs parallel with the train and leads into the rotary. Griffin may give a stipend to pay presenters. So far three firms have received \$10,000. Where do we want to hold this Hot Topic forum? Jenks is strong possibility, maybe the high school auditorium. Many people in town will want to attend. Nancy will apply for a grant. This is to educate the town and build support for the project. Nancy suggested a power point of Winchester through the years which could supplement the presentation. Jan, Nancy, Vicky, and Lauren volunteered to serve on a program sub-committee.

League as a resource behind progressive issues – Ruth Trimarchi spoke to us about a new organization, WIN. The group came into existence after the recent election. Basically, they wish to support the candidacy of more women of color, build a pipeline for communication, and increase diversity on boards in town both appointed and elected. These positions may be a stepping stone to state office. They intend to tackle many issues such as preservation of the environment, reproductive rights, planks in party platforms, while monitoring bills in the state legislature. They also intend to advocate for candidates, but acknowledge that our mutual interests, if these develop, would be limited to issues only. The SC thanked Ruth for her comments, but all felt we should take a wait and see attitude as to how the group develops.

Other Inquiries for possible programs: Launa Zimmaro and Karen Price of the Needham LWV are recruiting members for an Environmental Action and Advocacy Steering Committee that they are forming. Susan will send out an email blast to find out if there are any members from the Winchester League who would be interested in participating in this group. Winchester resident, Susan McPhee, is well regarded for environmental work, but not an LWV member. On another topic, Vicky will contact Meredith Conway and talk about a possible hot topic of full-day kindergarten and earlier school start times. Other topics we can explore are immigration reform, gun control, pay inequity, and affordable housing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Susan Woodward