League of Women Voters of Winchester

Tuesday March 28, 2017

Steering Committee Meeting

Location: Home of Elinor Quill, 41 Canterbury Road

Facilitator, Patty Shepard, Secretary, Nancy Schrock

The meeting convened at 7:11.

**Minutes** were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report** was submitted and accepted.

**Membership Report** – Vicky reported that we received two new memberships at the Candidate Forum (Betsy Cregger renewed and Lynn Brodsky rejoined) for a total of 77. Vicky clarified that people who join the local league automatically become members of State and National. It is not possible to join the local League only.

**Communication** – Susan reported that our Facebook pages are getting noticed more and our notices are being reposted.

**Voter Services** – The banner was put on the Shore Road side of the bridge because we were too late to get the Common side. We need to apply as early as possible (6 months in advance). Is it worth putting on the Shore Road side? Agreement to post even if on the backside.

**411.ORG** – This is a website developed by national and supported by State to provide consistent candidate information for voters. It was not used for local contests this year because those who worked on it last year (Jo-Ann and Susan) felt that there were problems with software (time-consuming), not all candidates replied, and there was no feedback from State about problems. SC felt it was good for presidential and state contests but not for local elections that include town meeting members because there are 8 different ballots. Question to LWVMA about the future of the site is pending.

**Report on Past Events**

**Day at the Races/Candidate Forum**, 3/19 – This annual event was a great success. There were good questions with the largest ever number of submissions from the public; also the largest audience ever (120 people counted), and an excellent turnout of Town Meeting candidates. Patti Muldoon was once again an excellent moderator. We were fortunate to have Aden and Tyler of WinCam to volunteer to film on a Sunday. We discussed having it on a weekday when it could be simulcast, but thought it might be less attended. It would help if we had a League volunteer for WinCam to film. Elinor noted that she had volunteered with WinCam in the past. It was not difficult to learn, but became more demanding when WinCam asked her to bring in new programming.

**The Politics of Justice: Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts**, 3/25 in Arlington. Five attended from SC along with other members of the Winchester League. Susan and Patty manned a table during the breaks and reported that had many people stopping by and took materials. The program was excellent and we agreed that co-sponsorship is something we should continue. Patty will get a copy of the criminal reform laws that the League is supporting and any follow-up materials to Nancy to post on our website.

**Future Programming/Events**

**Civic Award** – A subcommittee of Nancy, Jan, Patty, and Vicky met and recommended Judy Manzo. SC voted in favor. The concept is to combine the civic award with the annual meeting. The next step is to confirm with Judy Manzo and agree on dates. The options are after work around 5, Saturday brunch, or later in the evening. Might not need a speaker but keep to civic ceremony. TWK is not ADA accessible so we will look at other options. Alternatives: China Sky, Sanborn House (Nancy will investigate) or Lucia’s (Lauren).

**Annual Meeting** – We need to start work on new SC members and compile written materials for the booklet, prepare the budget. Nancy and Susan volunteered to work on the booklet. Nancy will work on the budget with Robin.

**Recruitment for next year** – we will look at the membership list next time.

**LWVMA Convention**, 4/28-29 - April 17, 2017 is the registration deadline. SC agreed to fund Robin overnight as our SC representative. If no other SC member can attend, we will offer it to all members. Nancy will be the point person.

**Climate Change/Health program** - Ruth Trimarchi is working with Vicky and the MA League on a speaker. Thinking spring but depends upon the speaker’s availability. Options for a venue are Sanborn House, Library, or Wright Locke Farm (which will be a co-sponsor).

**Winchester Center Train Station Renovations and Plans for the Town Center** – Mary and Nancy met with Brian Szekely, Town Planner. They suggest 2-3 programs in the fall (probably October) on the renovated MBTA station and development of Shore Road, Waterfield, and the Tow Common.

**Morning Program** with Vincent Dixon – Vicky met with Vincent but did not come away with a specific topic to recommend to SC at this time.

**New Business**

**How to run for office in Winchester** – Robin has been approached by participants in this year’s elections about legal and financial issues iinvolved in running for local office, She volunteered to plan a probram for October or early November. Other issues include yard signs, postcards, robo calls.

**WIN 350, People’s Climate Mobilzation**, march in Washington DC on April 29, 2017. We agreed to support but to co-sponsor. Susan will send out an informational email blast.

**April meeting**: Nancy will not be able to attend so Patty volunteered to lead the meeting. Nancy will do tonight’s minute and prepare the agenda.

Calendar

Friday, March 31 Submission deadline for the LWVMA High School video Contest, “Making

Democracy Work

April 28 – 29 LWVMA Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Framingham

June, TBA Annual Meeting