

**Advisory Committee**  
**February 25, 2015**  
**Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Andy Patten called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present included Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Tom Frisardi, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, John Hussey, Lucy Kapples, Michael Mastrianni, Frank Pinto, Ann Rappaport, Sara Raveret, Mason Smith, Scott Tarbox and Kathleen Woodward.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

FY16 Budget Update

*This item was removed from the agenda with no objections.*

Presentation on Article 25

Gig Babson, Chair of the Town Government Study Committee gave the presentation. She was accompanied by other committee members: Ann Marie Gross, Richard Page, Rose Mary Donahue, Arthur Goldberg and Anna Sereiko.

Article 25 of the Annual Town Meeting authorizes the continuation of the Town Government Study Committee, originally established under Article 30 of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting, and expands its scope to review the Town Bylaws for technical and other changes.

Phase I has been completed which was an internal review our existing Town government structure. They interviewed all of the Town elected and appointed boards and all department heads. In addition, they met with Representative Alice Peisch, retired Town Counsel Al Robinson, and Executive Director of General Government Services Hans Larsen and had interview sessions with current and former Selectmen, former Advisory Committee chairs, current and former Moderators, Town Meeting Members and Town residents. Findings of Phase I included a need for centralized planning and setting of Town priorities; need to develop and institute an integrated and collaborative budget-building process among Town departments; need to address silo structure of boards and departments; need to have consistency in staffing, hiring, performance evaluation and staff development; need for improved internal communication and need to improve boundaries of boards' roles in setting policy and staffs' role in managing daily operations.

Phase II was an external review with area communities including both managers and administrators. The TGSC met with Marilyn Contreas, Senior Program and Policy Analyst of the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. Peter Hechenbleikner was retained as a consultant for land use and executive function issues. The TGSC will make recommendations at a future Special Town Meeting. Recommendations could include role and

authority of Executive Director, number and composition, as well as role of various elected and appointed boards/committees, possible consolidation and centralization to functions and responsibilities of Town Departments, land use issues and updating bylaws. Recommendations may also include changes to Town Meeting and other issues as deemed appropriate.

Phase III will include their recommendations. TGSC plans to meet with boards, staff, TMMs and the public from February to May to garner feedback.

Phase IV will be the finalization of recommendations and implementation strategies. TGSC plans to meet over the summer to process feedback, make recommendations, draft bylaws and finalize special act if needed.

Phase V would be the final report given at the Fall Town Meeting.

Article 25 of the 2015 ATM continues a government study committee comprised of 9 members appointed by the Moderator to study the existing structure of Wellesley town government and make recommendations. Since additional time is needed for the committee to complete its work and make recommendations, this article authorizes an appropriation of \$32,000 from Free Cash. \$15,000 is requested for consulting fees from July 1, 2015 through the Fall Town Meeting and \$17,000 for legal fees.

#### Approval of Minutes

Mason Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2015. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Lucy Kapples made a friendly amendment to have the Committee attendees moved to the beginning of the minutes. There were no objections. Mason Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2015 as amended. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

#### Liaison Reports

The Chair asked for liaison reports and various members of the Advisory Committee provided their reports.

#### New Business/Old Business

The Chair reviewed the articles of the ATM Warrant individually to determine if any further discussion was necessary from the individual boards or departments. No votes were taken at this time.

John Hartnett gave an updated review of the Planning Board articles.

Ann Rappaport advised the first drafts of reports are due by February 27<sup>th</sup>. The book will be sent to the printer on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Advisory Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on March 4, 2015 in the Juliani Room of Town Hall.

Mr. Patten adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m. with no objections.