

Advisory Committee
November 3, 2015
Faculty Dining Room, Wellesley Middle School

Tom Frisardi called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 6:00pm. Those present included Mary Crown, Tom Fitzgibbons, Chad Harris, John Hartnett, Mike Hluchyj, Mark Kaplan, Michael Mastrianni, Frank Pinto, Alena Poirier, Sara Raveret, Mason Smith, Ria Stolle, Scott Tarbox, and Kathleen Woodward.

Citizen's Speak

No one wished to speak at this time.

Review and approval of minutes

Mason Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2015; the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands. Mason Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from October 21, 2015; the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Discussion and vote concerning Articles 3 through 6 to reflect proceedings at STM on Monday, November 3

Ray Miyares and Eric Reustle from the Town Counsel's Office and Richard Page and Anne Marie Gross from the Town Government Study Committee were in attendance.

Andy Wrobel brought forward amendments to Warrant Article 3A and Warrant Article 3C.

Andy's amendments would result in the Town Manager and the affected boards having "joint" responsibility to terminate a department head or chief staff employee; manage and supervise all Town departments, except for the School Department and the Municipal Light Department; and establish annual goals for and conduct annual evaluations of all appointed department head and officers. Ray explained that the authority is usually vested in the Town Manager who would work with the board; this amendment would institutionalize what would probably happen anyway. Anne Marie explained that the TGSC does not expect disagreements between the boards and the Town Manager, because the boards will be involved with developing the Strategic Plan, which the Town Manager will be implementing. Several members of Advisory felt that a protocol would need to be in place for when/if there is disagreement between the Town Manager and a board.

The first vote was whether the Town Manager and the affected board should have joint responsibility to terminate a department head or chief staff employee.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on the amendment proposed by Andy Wrobel to Section 3(B)(2) of the Special Act in Warrant Article 3A and to the corresponding changes to Section 20.3.b. (iv) and Section 20.3.b. (v) of the General Bylaws under Warrant Article 3C.

The motion was seconded by Mason Smith. Advisory recommended unfavorable action, 12 to 2.

The second vote was whether the Town Manager and the affected boards should jointly manage and supervise all Town departments, except for the School Department and the Municipal Light Department.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on the amendment proposed by Andy Wrobel to Section 3(B)(3) of the Special Act in Warrant Article 3A and to the corresponding changes to Section 20.3.c of the General Bylaws under Warrant Article 3C.

The motion was seconded by Mason Smith. Advisory recommended unfavorable action, 12 to 2.

The last vote was whether the Town Manager and the affected board or department head should jointly establish annual goals for and conduct annual evaluations of all appointed department head and officers.

Sara Raveret made a motion that Advisory recommend favorable action on the amendment proposed by Andy Wrobel to Section 20.3.b. (iii) in Warrant Article 3C.

The motion was seconded by Mason Smith. Advisory recommended unfavorable action, 11 to 3.

Heather Sawitsky brought forward an amendment to Warrant Article 3A.

Heather explained that her motion would delete text in the Special Act that already exists in the amendments to the General Bylaws. Her motion has no substantive changes to the Special Act and would result in more flexibility for the Town going forward.

Richard Page believes that the current Special Act would be better for the Town in that it defines the role of the Town Manager. He explained that Heather's version of the Special Act could result in changes to the Town Manager role from year to year reflecting political variances, and it could also result in a weaker pool of candidates for the job.

New Business/Old Business

None was presented at this time.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be on November 10th at 6:00pm in the Faculty Dining Room of the Wellesley Middle School.

Tom Frisardi adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm.