

Advisory Committee
November 10, 2015
Faculty Dining Room, Wellesley Middle School
Special Town Meeting, WMS Auditorium

Tom Frisardi called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 6:05pm. 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.

Approval of Minutes

Mark Kaplan made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2015; the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved by a show of hands. Mary Crown made a motion to approve the minutes from November 3, 2015; the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved by a show of hands.

Discussion concerning motions under Articles 3 through 6 of the warrant for Special Town Meeting and proposed amendments thereto

Heather Sawitsky's Amendment to Warrant Article 3A

Heather Sawitsky updated the committee on her possible amendment to Warrant Article 3A. She has been working with Town Counsel and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to find a "middle ground" on a streamlined version of the Special Act; however, recent feedback from the legislature indicates that the Special Act should fully define the roles and responsibilities of a Town Manager and should include what's in the bylaws. It is likely that Heather will not move forward with this amendment.

Ann Marie Gross of the Town Government Study Committee (TGSC) explained that there is a memo that defines why the TGSC wrote the Special Act the way they did. Members of the Advisory Committee requested to receive a copy of the memo and also suggested that this information should be shared with Town Meeting Members.

David Himmelberger's Amendments to Warrant Article 3A

David Himmelberger explained his motion to amend Section 1(C) of Warrant Article 3A. He would like the appointment of a Town Manager to require a "two-thirds majority" vote of the BOS, instead of a "majority" vote. It was reported that the BOS voted unfavorable action on this amendment; the TGSC had not yet voted. A few members of the Advisory Committee did not want to vote on this amendment until they heard feedback from both the BOS and the TGSC. No vote was taken.

David Himmelberger explained his motion to amend Section 1(D) of Warrant Article 3A. He believes the authority to issue common victualler licenses should remain with the BOS, and should not be delegated to a Town Manager. It was reported that the BOS voted favorable action on this amendment and that the TGSC has no objection to the amendment.

Sara Raveret recommended favorable action on the amendment proposed by David Himmelberger to Warrant Article 3A, Section 1(D), and Warrant Article 3B, Section 19.14. Mary Crown seconded the motion; the motion carried by a show of hands, 14-0.

Marla Robinson's Amendments to Warrant Article 3A

The committee briefly discussed Marla Robinson's proposed amendment to Warrant Article 3A to limit a Town Manager's initial term to three years, allowing for subsequent terms to be up to five years; however, Marla Robinson was not in attendance to discuss her amendment, so no vote was taken.

New business/old business

None was presented at this time.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be on November 12th at 6:00pm in the Faculty Dining Room of the Wellesley Middle School.

Adjourn

Tom Frisardi adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm, recognizing that votes by the committee might need to be taken during the Special Town Meeting later in the evening.

Special Town Meeting—Wellesley Middle School Auditorium

After David Himmelberger presented his proposed amendment to Warrant Article 3A, Section 1(C), regarding the 2/3 vote requirement of the BOS to appoint a Town Manager, the TGSC and the BOS presented to Town Meeting that they did not support the amendment. The Town Moderator asked the Advisory Committee to vote on the amendment and to make a recommendation.

At 9:35pm, Mason Smith made a motion to recommend favorable action on the proposed amendment by David Himmelberger to Warrant Article 3A, Section 1(C). Chad Harris seconded the motion. The vote by a show of hands was tied, 7-7; the Chair, Tom Frisardi, voted in favor of the amendment, so the motion carried, 8-7.

After Marla Robinson presented her proposed amendment to Warrant Article 3A, Section 2(C), regarding the Town Manager's initial term being limited to three years with subsequent terms allowed up to five years, the TGSC and the BOS presented to Town Meeting that they had no objection to the proposed amendment. The Town Moderator asked the Advisory Committee to vote on the amendment and to make a recommendation.

At 10:20pm, Sara Raveret made a motion to recommend favorable action on the amendment proposed by Marla Robinson to Warrant Article 3A, Section 2(C), and Warrant Article 3(C), Section 20.2.a. Mason Smith seconded the motion; the motion carried by a show of hands, 13-1.