

# TOWN OF WELLESLEY



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE LETTER SPECIAL TOWN MEETING November 14, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. Wellesley Middle School Auditorium

### TERM ENDS 2012

Virginia Ferko, Chair  
Jack Haley  
Maura Murphy, Secretary  
Rich Page  
Derek Redgate

### TERM ENDS 2013

Laura Hockett, Vice-Chair  
Catherine Johnson  
Philip Licari  
David Murphy, Vice-Chair

### TERM ENDS 2014

Robert Capozzi  
Becky Epstein  
Ann Marie Gross  
Marjorie Freiman  
Deborah Robi  
Rich Woerner

To the Citizens of the Town of Wellesley:

October 25, 2011

A Special Town Meeting will convene on Monday, November 14, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. at the Wellesley Middle School Auditorium, 40 Kingsbury Street, to consider Articles proposed by the Board of Selectmen, the Community Preservation Committee, the Human Resources Board and Municipal Light Plant Board. All residents are welcome to attend the meeting in person, or follow the proceedings on Wellesley Cable TV (Comcast Channel ~~9-8~~, Verizon Channel ~~39-40~~).

This letter presents the Advisory Committee's summary of the key features of the Articles to be considered at the meeting. A more comprehensive Advisory Committee Report, including recommendations to Town Meeting, will be mailed to all Town Meeting members and to all Town departments. The Report will also be posted on the Town's website, [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov). Copies of the Report will be available for pick-up at the Town Clerk's Office and at the Wellesley Free Library no later than seven days before the meeting. The Town Clerk's Office will mail a copy of the Report to any resident who requests one. If any further recommendations are made by the Advisory Committee in the period of time between publication of the Report and the opening of Special Town Meeting, a notice will be sent to Town Meeting Members by e-mail, and the new recommendations will be posted on the Town's website.

### Special Town Meeting Articles

There are thirteen Articles on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting. No motions are currently expected under Articles 1, 2, 7 or 12.

#### Article 3

Under this Article the Board of Selectmen (BOS) requests a supplemental appropriation to the FY12 Operating Budget for Traffic and Parking Operations of \$34,800 from *Parking Meter Receipts* to fund an evaluation of traffic signal timing and phasing operations along the Route 16 (Washington Street) and Linden Street corridor. The Town utilizes a software system to regulate traffic signal timing at major intersections to improve efficiency, optimize traffic flow and ensure safety. Citizens and members of the Police Department have recently expressed concerns about how the system is functioning at several intersections, causing unnecessary

delays. The proposal is to engage the Town's traffic engineers, Beta Group, Inc to evaluate current traffic volume data, to identify deficiencies in the signal timing and phasing system, and to provide a revised signal plan for the affected intersections.

#### **Article 4**

The Human Resources Board seeks Town Meeting approval to amend Article 31 of the Town Bylaws to make changes to salary and wage schedules consistent with an anticipated collective bargaining agreement with the Wellesley Firefighters Local 1795, IAFF. Schedule B sets the rates of pay for all Town employees, except School Department personnel. Details of the contract and the changes to the salary and wage schedules are anticipated to be available prior to the start of Special Town Meeting

#### **Article 5**

This Article seeks the approval of Town Meeting to remove all uniformed Fire Department personnel from the provisions of the Civil Service laws. A motion will be made under this Article if final agreement is reached with the Wellesley Firefighters Local 1795, IAFF. Uniformed Police Department personnel were removed from Civil Service by vote of Town Meeting in April 2010.

#### **Article 6**

The Municipal Light Plant Board (MLP) requests an appropriation for the construction of a two-story, 8,220 square foot addition to the existing Municipal Light Plant garage to accommodate administrative, engineering and customer service personnel. This request is for an appropriation incremental to \$1,920,000 already appropriated for this project by Annual Town Meeting in 2010. The entire appropriation for this project, including the incremental amount will be from MLP funds and will have no tax impact. The amount of the requested appropriation will be determined after bids are received and before the start of Special Town Meeting.

#### **Article 8**

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) seeks an appropriation of \$665,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund to the Fuller Brook Park Preservation Coordinating Committee (FBPCC) for Phase 3 of the Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project, specifically to complete the final design, additional studies, permitting and development of construction and bid documents for the project. Fuller Brook Park is a popular and well-used public open space, dating back to the 1890s and encompassing 23 acres, spanning two and one-half miles from Dover Road to Maugus Avenue. The stream drains nearly one third of Wellesley's storm water run-off and the paths are used for recreation and pedestrian access to schools, public transportation, the main library and town center. The park's path network needs repair and is not ADA accessible; much of its vegetation needs treatment, removal or stabilization; invasive species are taking over sections of the park; the stream course, damaged by erosion, invasive plants and sedimentation buildup, needs repair; and its flood control capacity is diminishing.

The documentation produced in Phase 3 will provide the detailed costs, scope and timing options for Phase 4, which will be subject to future Town Meeting approval. Phase 4, the construction phase of the project, is expected to require both CPC and other town resources for completion. The CPC's Five Year Plan anticipates an allocation of \$3.6 million in CPC funds for this project and the Town-wide Financial Plan projects an allocation of town funds, estimated at \$1.8 million, potentially subject to voter approval of a debt exclusion.

*The Report of the Fuller Brook Park Preservation Coordinating Committee further describes the project and may be found on the Town Website at [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov).*

### **Article 9**

Under this Article, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) seeks authorization to file special legislation with the Massachusetts General Court (State Legislature) to enable the BOS to grant alcohol licenses to restaurants with a seating capacity of at least 50, as opposed to the current minimum of 100. Several existing Wellesley restaurants with fewer than 100 seats have expressed interest in this special legislation to lower the minimum seat requirements for obtaining a liquor license. In addition, landlords of commercial spaces that could accommodate restaurants with 50 to 100 seats have indicated that the availability of liquor licenses, without the required space and capital investment necessary for a 100 seat establishment, would make some vacant commercial sites attractive for restaurant use. The total number of liquor licenses that may be granted is capped by state law. The BOS, in its role as Licensing Board for the Town, will continue to scrutinize all Common Victualler and liquor license applications under all other current regulations.

### **Article 10**

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) proposes the adoption of a Bylaw to allow the Wellesley Police Department (WPD) to conduct fingerprint based national and state criminal background checks on applicants for the following occupational activity licenses: manager of alcoholic beverage license (licensee, manager ~~and assistant manager~~); hawker and peddler (includes door-to-door solicitors); owner or operator of public conveyance (taxi and livery); dealer of second-hand articles and ice-cream truck vendors. Criminal background checks are currently conducted by the WPD to determine the suitability of applicants for these licenses utilizing the Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) system. The CORI system is not fingerprint based and includes only Massachusetts information. This Bylaw would authorize WPD access to broader criminal record databases, most notably the criminal records from states that have fingerprint databases and the FBI, for the purpose of determining the suitability of applicants for the specified licenses. A draft of the proposed Bylaw may be found on the Town's website at [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov).

### **Article 11**

The Board of Selectmen seeks approval of an amendment to the Development Agreement between the Town and the owner of the Linden Square Development to allow a further extension of the Volkswagen dealership's lease in exchange for benefits to the Town. The terms of the Agreement between the Town and the property owner will be available for review prior to Special Town Meeting.

### **Article 13**

This Article seeks approval to rescind unused borrowing authority for completed projects.

---

The Advisory Committee thanks the dedicated Town employees, elected and appointed officials, and concerned citizens who devote so much time, energy, and expertise to the Town's affairs. Town Meeting is an opportunity to examine important issues, enter into dialogue, and vote as a community on how to best serve our Town and its residents. We hope that this letter highlights the issues expected to be considered by Special Town Meeting and explains how residents may obtain further information.

The Advisory Committee welcomes citizen input. Our meetings are open to the public and begin with a "Citizen Speak" session. We receive e-mail at [advisorycommittee@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:advisorycommittee@wellesleyma.gov) .

Sincerely,

Virginia Ferko, Chair



Advisory Committee  
Town Hall  
Wellesley, Ma. 02482

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit No.: 56467

## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WELLESLEY, MA

### TOWN OF WELLESLEY



### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING November 14, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. Wellesley Middle School Auditorium

Advisory Committee summary of the key features of Articles to be considered

**Appropriations:**

- Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project from Community Preservation Fund - \$665,000 (Art 8);
- Municipal Light Plant Garage – additional appropriation from MLP funds, no tax impact (Art 6);
- Evaluation of traffic signal timing from *Parking Meter Receipts* - \$34,800 (Art 3);

**Other Approvals/Authorizations:**

- Amend salary/wage schedules consistent with anticipated collective bargaining agreement;
- Remove uniformed Fire Department personnel from Civil Service;
- Request Special Legislation to allow liquor licenses for restaurants with at least 50 seat capacity;
- Bylaw to allow fingerprint-based criminal background checks for certain occupational licenses;
- Amend Linden Square Development Agreement to allow extension of VW Dealership lease;
- Rescind unused borrowing authority.