

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Membership and Organization

During the 2012 fiscal year, the Board was chaired by Barbara D. Searle with Terri Tsagaris serving as vice-chair and Ellen F. Gibbs serving as secretary. On June 27, 2011, the Board was reorganized – electing Terri Tsagaris as chair, with Ellen F. Gibbs serving as vice-chair and Barbara D. Searle serving as secretary.

On March 13, 2012, the Annual Town Election was held. Incumbent Terri Tsagaris and Donald S. McCauley were both elected to three year terms.

Town Meeting Articles and Actions

2012 Annual Town Meeting

The 2012 Annual Town Meeting was convened on March 26, 2012 to act on the FY2013 budget and other Town business. The Board of Selectmen sponsored and made motions on the following articles, which were approved:

Article 2	Town-Wide Financial Plan
Article 7	FY12 Appropriation Adjustments
Article 8	Omnibus Budget and Capital
Article 9	Set Salary of Town Clerk
Article 14	Authorize/Reauthorize Revolving Funds
Article 17	Fire Department - Ladder Truck Replacement
Article 30	Municipal Charges Lien for Encroachments
Article 37	Appoint Fire Engineers

In addition, under Article 6, Town Meeting approved the establishment of a Town-wide Facilities Maintenance Department responsible for the maintenance of all Town buildings, with the exception of those controlled by the Municipal Light Plant and Department of Public Works. This new department will be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen.

June 13, 2012 Special Town Meeting

The June 13, 2012 Special Town Meeting was convened to act on the acquisition of St. James the Great Church located at 900-910 Worcester Street. The Board of Selectmen sponsored and made motions on the following articles, which were approved:

Article 2	Acquire property located at 900-910 Worcester Street (St. James the Great site)
Article 3	Establish 900 Worcester Planning Committee to further study the recreational uses recommended by the St. James Ad Hoc Committee and to evaluate any other potential municipal uses for the property

At the time of this writing, the due diligence related to this acquisition is on-hold, pending resolution of a canon law appeal.

Selected FY2012 Accomplishments

- 27 Washington Street - This important development project was completed, including restoration of the Division of Conservation and Recreation pedestrian bridge over the Charles River and the creation of additional parking.
- Facilities Maintenance – Worked with the Ad Hoc Facilities Maintenance Committee on the establishment of a new centralized Facilities Maintenance Department
- 900 Worcester Street - Successfully negotiated a Purchase & Sale agreement for acquisition of the former St. James the Great site at 900 Worcester, obtained Town Meeting approval for the funding of this acquisition, and established a committee to plan for the redevelopment of this site.
- Tax Classification - Coordinated several public hearings and forums on this topic in advance of the formal Tax Classification Hearing.
- Wellesley Square Initiative - Coordinated a multi-department program of outreach to this key district, including organizing meetings of property owners and merchants, implementation of parking improvements; and, communication of related municipal enhancements.
- Town Wide Financial Plan – Continued to enhance the Town’s long-term financial planning process through further implementation of recommendations provided by a group of former Advisory Chairs; established FY13 budget guidelines; and, balanced the FY13 budget without a Proposition 2 ½ override, while continuing to enhance the Town’s financial reserves.
- Alcohol Licensing - Gained authority to license restaurants with 50-100 seats for the service of alcohol, through the following actions:
 - Town Meeting authorization to seek special legislation, November 14, 2011
 - Massachusetts Legislature approval of Chapter 25 of the Acts of 2012
 - Wellesley voter approval, March 13, 2012 Annual Town Election
- Encroachment – Adopted a “Policy on Encroachments on Town Land” January 24, 2012.

Scholarships Granted by the Board

The Board of Selectmen announced that for the 2012-2013 academic year, it was able to give 25 students financial assistance through scholarship funds administered by the Board.

Twelve students attending various colleges received scholarship awards totaling \$8,500 from the War Memorial Scholarship Fund. The award winners were Holly Kapinos, Lauren Madden, Matthew Mahoney, Victoria Smith, Claire Crowther, Sarah Forman, Cara Moran, Peimun Sharbatoghlie, Victoria Gerald, Meghan Morris, Paul Vasko and the Named Award Winner, Hugh Crowther.

The Selectmen also have the responsibility and privilege of selecting the Town Scholars who attend Wellesley College and who will receive tuition grants. Town Scholars selected for the 2012/2013 academic year were Barbara Jiang, Fanni Torok, Madeline Buckley, Soomi Kim, Marisa Mahlenkamp, Soojin Kim and Lisa Hsieh.

Town Scholars to Babson College are also chosen by the Board of Selectmen. This year Salina Chan, Adam Farina and Hugh Crowther were been granted awards toward tuition.

Taylor Steel, David Kaplan and Claire Bradach were chosen to receive the Seldon and Nellie Brown Scholarship for Wesleyan University.