

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Membership

On March 6, 2007, Gregory B. Mills was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen. From July 1, 2006 to June 18, 2007 the Board was organized as follows: Katherine L. Babson, Jr., Chairman, Owen H. Dugan, Vice Chairman, Harriet S. Warshaw, Secretary. On June 18, 2007 the Board was reorganized as follows: Owen H. Dugan, Chairman, Gregory B. Mills, Vice Chairman, Katherine L. Babson, Jr., Secretary.

Annual Town Meeting

The 2007 Annual Town Meeting was convened on March 26, 2007 to act on the FY2008 budget and other Town business. The Board of Selectmen sponsored and made motions on the following articles which were approved:

Article 3	Establish/Amend Fees
Article 7	FY07 Appropriation Adjustments
Article 8	Omnibus Budget and Capital
Article 9	Appropriation - Group Insurance Liability Fund
Article 10	Set Salary of Elected Officials
Article 11	Appropriation – Stabilization Fund
Article 15	Establish Revolving Fund
Article 16	Reauthorize Revolving Funds
Article 26	Parking Machine Replacement
Article 29	Acceptance of Woodside Avenue
Article 31	Accept MGL Chapter 30 § 23D – Adjudicatory Hearing
Article 35	Acquire Land – 2 Linden Street
Article 39	Authorize Leases of certain parcels within the Cochituate Aqueduct
Article 54	Establish Town Bylaw Study Committee
Article 68	Appoint Fire Engineer

Other Post Employment Benefits Liability (OPEB) Funding

Based on a February 2006 actuarial study, Wellesley's unfunded OPEB liability is approximately \$93 million. The Town has been paying its share of medical insurance costs for retirees on a pay-as-you-go basis. In an effort to proactively address the Town's accrued liability for retiree medical insurance costs, the Selectmen initiated an OPEB funding program by appropriating \$600,000 in FY 2007. The plan called for increasing the funding by \$600,000 each successive year until reaching a \$3,000,000 appropriation in 2011 and to continue at that level until the liability is fully funded. The passage of the OPEB funding exclusion on May 15, 2007 (described later in this report) has enabled the Town to reach the \$3,000,000 annual appropriation level in FY08, i.e., three years earlier than planned.

Special Election May 15, 2007

The Board of Selectmen approved two questions to be placed on the ballot for the Special Election held on May 15, 2007. The first question requested voter approval of an \$18,000,000 OPEB funding exclusion. Passage of the exclusion would result in the levy of \$1,800,000 of additional taxes each year for a period of ten years. These funds would be placed into the Group Insurance Liability Fund for the purpose of funding the Town's Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability.

The second question requested voter approval of a debt exclusion for a variety of capital projects. These projects included: Morses Pond Management Plan included dredging of the North Basin - \$650K; Stormwater Drainage Improvements - \$1.3m; and School Building Infrastructure including repairs to roofs, boilers, windows, sprinkler and systems - \$11.2m. These projects represent the sponsoring boards highest capital priorities. These projects are largely capital maintenance in nature and responsive to the need to preserve Town assets.

FY 2007 Accomplishments

- Updated Common Victualler Regulations
- Updated Common Victualler with Alcohol Regulations
- Adopted Take-out Food Regulations
- Adopted Entertainment Regulations
- Renewed leases of Cochituate Aqueduct parcels
- Adopted Town of Wellesley Street Acceptance Policy
- Granted a cable television license to Verizon
- Updated Parking Fines and Parking Regulations

Street Acceptance Policy

On January 17, 2007 the Board adopted the Town of Wellesley Street Acceptance Policy. The Policy guidelines are summarized as follows:

Given the number of unaccepted streets in Wellesley and the potential cost of upgrading them in connection with their acceptance, the Board of Selectmen recognizes the need for guidelines for evaluating which street acceptances it recommends to Town Meeting. Part of this evaluation includes assessing affordability within the context of the Town-Wide Financial Plan. To this end, the Board of Selectmen has established a process for categorizing street acceptance requests into the following three types and the Town's share of the project cost:

Type 1 – New subdivisions – No cost to Town

Type 2 – Private ways with a significant level of public usage – Town to absorb 75% of total cost, and remaining 25% to be assessed to abutters

Type 3 – Private ways with an insignificant level of public usage – Town prepares an initial review sufficient to obtain a cost estimate, including estimated betterment assessments for each abutter. Abutters are responsible for all other costs.

Babson College -Government Managers Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program

On December 13 and 14, 2006, 33 employees and 6 board members representing 17 departments attended the Town of Wellesley Government Managers Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program at the Babson College Executive Education Center. This program was created for the Town of Wellesley by Wellesley residents Julian Lange, Professor of Entrepreneurship & Public Policy, and Elaine Eisenman, Dean of the Executive Education Center. Six groups were created to suggest improvements on how we can better deliver services in the following areas: Building Department Process, Centralized Customer Service, Virtual Town Hall (website), Town-wide intranet, Balanced Scorecard, and Telecommunications. The teams met independently over the winter and returned to Babson on May 30 and 31 to report the results of their work and their recommendations. An operations committee has been created to act as a steering committee for implementing the recommendations of the 6 teams.

Town Development Review Team (TDRT)

The concept of a TDRT was introduced during the negotiations with the developer of Linden Square. A TDRT is comprised of a group of elected officials, senior staff, Town Counsel, and others as necessary to represent the Town in discussions and negotiations with developers of significant projects in Wellesley. During FY2007, TDRT's were created for the following projects: Wellesley Inn, Wellesley Country Club, and 27 Washington Street.

School Building Committee

The Selectmen took the lead in creating the School Building Committee (SBC) authorized under the new regulations of the Massachusetts School Building Authority to manage the Wellesley High School project. The Selectmen representative to the SBC is Katherine Babson, who chairs this new committee. A report on the SBC is included in this Annual Report.

Scholarships

The Board of Selectmen has announced that for the 2007/08 academic year, it was able to give 36 students financial assistance through scholarship funds administered by the Board.

Seventeen students attending various colleges received scholarship awards totaling \$14,000 from the War Memorial Scholarship Fund. The award winners were Gregory Arpino, Monique Czulewicz, Moira Lix, Dakota Ryan, Eric Campbell, Nicole Gobiell, Paul Allen, Emmy Thelander, Katherine Fields, Jessica Banks, David Chan, Catherine Crowther, Kristina Hatzipetrou, Alexandra Holness, Jesse Moore, Ryan Moran and the Named Award Winner, Catherine Demers.

Persons wishing to contribute to the War Memorial Scholarship Fund may send a check payable to War Memorial Fund, Selectmen's Office, 525 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02482.

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

2007/2008 academic year are Shabnam Sharbatoghlie, Tina Tam, Stephanie White, Claire Davis, Prachee M. Gujarathi, Adriana Kosmo, Diane C. Seol, Lauren & Jessica Tom, Erin Ennis, Ivelyna Gishin and Katie Donovan.

Town Scholars to Babson College are also chosen by the Board of Selectmen. This year Jeffrey J. Petersen, Sarah Hughes, Yue Mei Chen, R. Steven Pini, Jr., and Zachary Secrest have been granted awards toward tuition.

Timothy Archibald and Aninna M. DeLeo were chosen to receive the Seldon and Nellie Brown Scholarship for Wesleyan University.

Applications for next year's scholarships will be available in the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall for a February 1st deadline.