

Meeting of Waban Area Council

Waban Library Center

April 12 2018 7:30pm

Members of Waban Area Council in Attendance: Patrick Maher, Bob Jampol, Dinah Bodkin, Christopher Pitts, Joe Corkery, Sallee Lipshutz, Isabelle Albeck.

Acting President: Sallee Lipshutz

Also in Attendance: Karen Sauer, Gretchen Friend, Barbara Kopans, Ann Wilcox, Barbara Brustowicz, Don Ross

Minutes of 03/08/18 Meeting approved with change suggested by PM.

Should we send draft minutes in blast email every month? IA asked for WAC Draft Meeting Minutes to be sent out in bulk email as soon as it is available. That is the procedure of the NHAC and it allows the community to read the Minutes sooner after the meeting has taken place than WAC procedure which precludes dissemination of the Minutes until they are approved, usually one month later at next meeting. The concept was favorably received. Some discussion as to particulars of format. Bulk blast email will contain link to Draft Minutes posted on WAC website as soon as available, which Secretary Bodkin expressed would be one week to ten days after any given meeting. Proposal passed unanimously. Council agreed informally to limit blast emails to twice per month except in the event of an emergency or specific request from City Council

After unanimous passage of decision, discussion continued, mainly around the issue of not saturating our community with bulk emails. CP stated that our current “open” rate is approximately 45%, significantly better than WIS. SL moved that council vote to continue discussion on a matter on which a vote had already been taken. Motion passed. SL asserted that WAC meetings are governed by Robert’s rules. CP disagreed. The matter was left there¹.

Treasurer’s Report Approved Balance of \$1202.20 with \$299 of that belonging to Friends of the Quinobequin (unchanged since last meeting).

¹ WAC meetings are governed by Robert’s rules. <http://www.wabanareacouncil.com/content/laws>. See f. Conduct of meetings.

Burning Issues from the Community

Need for adjustment of traffic light in Waban Square. “Smart” traffic light stops cars in all directions even when no one is attempting to cross the street. Accessible parking spot will become available in front of Waban Post Office. Waban Commons: Fundraising is in full swing. Donations can be made at wabancommon.org. Ready to begin construction. Can construction begin before the school year is over?

Update on Proposed Change to Citywide Parking Rules

Proposal, approved by Public Safety and Transportation Committee to prohibit drivers from parking at the same meter, on the same block or in the same public lot twice in one day met a lot of opposition when presented to full City Council. Proposal was sent back to Committee. Councilors John Rice and Andrea Downs expect Committee to propose significant changes to current proposal.

Waban Surveys Summary (CP)

CP reviewed results of Waban Survey, all of which are available at WAC website in Document Archives under Future Planning. Results of Waban Survey sparked discussion at tonight’s meeting of frequency of tear downs in Waban v other Newton Villages, aging in Waban, and Mayor Fuller’s stated interest in the results of the Survey.

Zoning Revision and Pattern Book Update

Several sections of the WAC catchment area are not included in the Pattern Book Waban Context Based Area (see WAC website Pattern Book page.) Generally agreed that architectural harmony is a thin criterion on which to base CBA’s. Council agreed informally that neighborhoods in our catchment area should not be excluded from Waban CBA. Question arose (IA) as to whether Pattern Book is impartial assessment or designed in such a way as to encourage development.

Update re Medical Marijuana Dispensary

No significant changes since last meeting. RG has reached out to Ron Lipof about participating in a community forum but he has not responded. Approval for dispensary at 1152 Beacon St is under way. New material re permitting process and City of Newton regulations can be found at www.mass.gov. CP agreed to post relevant material to WAC website.

Waban Village Day May 20

Goal of obtaining more signatures in order to grow our email list.

Meeting adjourned 9:42.

**Respectfully submitted by
Dinah Bodkin**