

WABAN AREA COUNCIL 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Members & Officers

The nine members of the Council are:

Isabelle Albeck, Treasurer
Dinah Bodkin
Joe Corkery
Rena Getz, Vice President
Bob Jampol
Sallee Lipshutz
Patrick Maher
Chris Pitts
Kathy Winters, President

Ward Five Councilor John Rice is an ex officio member of the Waban Area Council and attends nearly every meeting. Councilors Deb Crossley and Andreae Downs are also occasional attendees of the Area Council meetings.

2018 Annual Report Waban Area Council

Communication

One of the primary goals of the Waban Area Council is to provide information to Waban residents about issues of importance in Waban and to serve as an information conduit between city government and residents. In 2018 our regular meetings included City Councilors, Business Representatives and Mayor Fuller. In addition, residents are encouraged to air their concerns at our monthly meetings. We maintain a website at ww.wabanareacouncil.com that keeps residents up to date on a wide variety of issues. We maintain an email list of over 1,000 people and send out monthly updates. We continually work with our city councilors and other city officials to keep residents informed.

Zoning Reform

We provided extensive information to residents regarding every stage of the Zoning Reform Process, which included but is not limited to meetings at Newton Free Library, release of draft ordinance(s) and ward by ward meetings. The Newton Pattern Book was closely examined by several members of WAC and in April a letter was written to Barney Heath suggesting changes be made to the Waban CBA. All suggested changes were accepted. The first in a series of joint meetings of the Waban Area Council and the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council was held at the WLC on November 19. The goal was to provide information about the proposed ordinance changes. The meeting minutes as well as all other relevant information can be found on the WAC website.

Transportation and Traffic Issues

A special meeting was held in March with police officials and transportation officials of the City of Newton regarding traffic safety on Beethoven and Allen Avenues. Homes most directly affected by said traffic issues were leafleted; as a result the meeting was very well attended. Notes on the meeting were provided to city officials and published on the WAC website.

A special meeting was held in July to discuss safety on Chestnut St and a schedule for repaving Chestnut St in the summer of 2019. Meeting minutes are available on WAC website.

Traffic council decision and citizen appeal re Manitoba Rd were presented at September WAC meeting. Parking restrictions on Waban streets were explained by Councilor Rice (May meeting). An alarming incident of thumbtacks being left sharp side up on Winchester St was described by a local resident at the June WAC meeting. Councilor Downs attended a WAC meeting in November to inform residents of repairs to local streets. Residents were kept up to date on MBTA green line repairs.

Medical and Recreational Marijuana

Residents were updated as two ordinances limiting MRD's wound their way through City Council and were put before the voters on Election Day 2018. Also continually updated is the status of establishments applying for Medical and Recreational Dispensary Licenses. At the October WAC representatives from Responsible First Step Newton and Opt Out Newton presented their points of view. Much lively input from Waban residents ensued. The WAC continues to monitor Marijuana related issues as they progress.

Major Development Projects impacting Waban

Northland Permitting process included in WAC agendas and meetings as well as developers' meetings with other area councils. Discussion of traffic impact of Northland Development with Councilor Downs (May meeting).

1114 Beacon St Updates included in WAC Agenda(s) as well as meetings with Newton Highlands Area Council

Riverside In December WAC hosted Charlie Stover of Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association Riverside Committee and discussed ways of aiding their efforts. They are presenting on January 30th 2019.

Community Initiatives

Waban Common Updated on WAC website. September 2018 Waban Common event sponsored by WAC following unanimous vote at May meeting.

Friends of Cold Spring Park Alan Nogee attended several WAC meetings. He has founded Friends of Cold Spring Park in order to properly maintain the park's trails. His efforts were included in our emails and members of the Area Council attended several meetings at the park to discuss said improvements with officials from the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

Friends of Quinobequin At October meeting Maureen O'Reilly Meagher expressed concern that resident interest is waning. WAC members suggested a collaborative relationship with Friends of Hemlock Gorge. Issues of interest to Friends of Quinobequin are included in WAC emails.

Survey of Waban residents/ Future Visioning In connection with "Waban Future Visioning" residents were surveyed regarding multiple quality of life issues in Waban. The results were presented at our April meeting and published in the document archive under Future Plans on the WAC website.

NewArt Center Dan Elias seeks ways of keeping NewArt Center open and active without spending the \$6 million that is necessary to update their current facilities. WAC agreed to participate in collaborative area council efforts to ensure the future of NewArt.

NewtonPower Choice WAC hosted Co-director of Sustainability Ann Berwick who informed and led a discussion about Newton Power Choice.

Suzuki School of Newton

Item(s) of interest included in WAC agendas.

Mayoral Meet Up and Discussion of Waban Village Businesses

Hosted Mayor Fuller for a one hour "input from citizens" discussion before official WAC December meeting. WAC December meeting included businesses owners Kirk Neumann and Tricia Marshall who put forth their ideas about creating a vibrant, business friendly Waban Village.

Submitted by Dinah Bodkin

Secretary, Waban Area Council. Jan 24, 2019

Waban Area Council

February 9, 2018

Budget Summary Narrative

For the 2018 calendar year the Waban Area Council yearly expenditures fell into the following categories:

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
None		