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TOWN OF WAYLAND

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WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

LEA T. ANDERSON
MARY M. ANTES
LOUIS M. JURIST
CHERRY C. KARLSON
JOSEPH F. NOLAN

Board of Selectmen Listening Session Subcommittee
Listening Session #3
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 30, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
Broomstones Curling Club
138 Rice Road, Wayland

Attendance: Subcommittee members Lea T. Anderson and Mary M. Antes

Others in attendance: Jean Milburn (facilitator), Katy Allen, Lynn Dowd, Gabriel Metzger, Sejal Srinivasan

Welcome and introductions Facilitator, Jean Milburn, welcomed four members of the community to the third of nine Listening Sessions at 10:10 a.m. at the Broomstones Curling Club at 138 Rice Rd. in Wayland. J. Milburn gave a brief statement of her background and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. She explained that Selectmen Lea Anderson and Mary Antes were there to listen and take notes for a summary report. She assured the attendees that no statements would be attributed to individuals in the report. J. Milburn reviewed the ground rules.

Questions and discussion J. Milburn led the group through a series of questions:

- What town services do you use most often and how well do they serve your needs? How could they be improved?
- What are three things in Wayland Town Government that are working well and you don't want to see changed? What three things would you like to see changed?
- Do you participate in town activities and town-sponsored events? Why or why not?
- What would encourage you to take advantage of these activities and services?
- Many feel that Wayland taxes are high. What services might you be willing to forego in order to add new or additional services?
- What is the best way for the town to provide you with information on a regular basis?
- Do you have skills that you would be willing to share with the town on a short-term, one-shot, or regular basis? What is keeping you from joining a board or committee?
- Do you have concerns or comments that have not already been mentioned?

Feedback Notes on comments received are attached.

Approval of minutes M. Antes moved, seconded by L. Anderson to approve the minutes to Listening Session Subcommittee meeting of Jan. 13, 2017, Listening Session #1 on Jan. 26, 2017, and Listening Session #2 on Jan. 28, 2017. YEA: L. Anderson, M. Antes. NAY: none. ABSTAIN: none. Adopted 2-0.

Adjourn The listening session ended at 11:35 a.m.

Items Distributed for Information and Use by the Listening Session attendees at Listening Session #3 on January 30, 2017

1. Handout from FY18 Recommendations on Budget Guideline dated August 2016 – charts ranking Wayland among peer towns
2. 2017 budget breakdown
3. Draft minutes to Listening Session Subcommittee meeting of Jan. 13, 2017, Listening Session #1 on Jan. 26, 2017, and Listening Session #2 on Jan. 28, 2017

Items Included as Part of Agenda Packet for Discussion During the January 30, 2017 Listening Session
There were none.

Respectfully submitted: Lea T. Anderson (2/15/17)

**Listening Session #3 Notes
Monday, Jan. 30, 2017
Broomstones Curling Club**

Facilitator, Jean Milburn

Selectmen, Lea Anderson, Mary Antes

4 attendees 2 of 4 attend Town Meeting regularly
 1 of 4 have served on town boards or committees
 4 of 4 regularly use town resources and activities

Have been residents for 20 years, 32 years, 1 year, 36 years

Question: What town services do you use most often and how well do they serve your needs? Or not serve your needs?

Conservation

- Use conservation land; very important; conservation land is great

DPW

- Streets get plowed, landfill good
- Landfill very nice, helpful, clean, well-organized; don't mind going there
- Roads, snow removal good; disappointing that no trash pick-up given the high tax rate
- Love landfill; workers' sense of humor gives a lift; appreciate taking yard waste and recycling opportunity; rapid snow plowing good, leader in recycling

REC

- Pleased with programs through Rec like summer programs for kids, tennis
- Interact with Rec department with helping kids who can't afford access to programs – good thing

Schools

- Pleased with schools, but class sizes are big (25 and 27 for her kids); has met with superintendent; need more science in elementary grades, taught only once per week in Wayland, should be two or three times per week; overall very pleased with decision to come to Wayland
- Like police presence in schools, nice role

Town Clerk

- Feel that Town Clerk does a good job with elections

Building Dept./ZBA

- First interaction with ZBA very lengthy; bylaws written in a confusing way; felt town did not enforce bylaw; had to get an attorney; in the end project was denied, so turned out well
- Building Inspector (previous one) difficult to interact with
- Know that department is understaffed; suggest putting ongoing cases on ZBA agenda, not just new ones so that residents know when the case they are interested in will be acted upon again; way behind on minutes, taping equipment often doesn't work; communication with public could be better

Question: What is working well, not working well? What would you like protected?

- Open space
- Just built new home; don't want bigger homes than land warrants; feel of Wayland is nice; preserve character of town
- Mainstone is terrific; potential for development no longer an issue

- Likes preservation of historic character of town although rules are difficult to navigate; there are still open spaces that could be developed and need protection, like the library, Mellon Law Office; Grout Heard House

Question: What would you like to see changed?

DPW

- Intersection at 5 Paths is dangerous; need three distinct lanes with one being left turn only lane at light coming from south on Rte. 126; very risky not knowing if cars are turning left or going straight
- Paint a line in the road

Facilities/ Town Building

- Like to see funds for certain renovations of Town Building, starting with temperature control, windows, lack of space, noise; currently have employees working out of room off large hearing room – very bad conditions
- Why don't we have solar panels on roof of Town Building?
- More energy efficiency; make Wayland energy sustainable; ideal of zero waste very important

Communication

- Open and transparent communication to citizens for health of Town Government
- Need better sources of information; flyer in tax bill is helpful but not enough

Town Meeting

- Would like to see a change in way votes are taken at Town Meeting; one of very few parents at TM, not representative of folks in town; need to know when votes are going to be taken; can't be there for whole meeting with small children at home; schedule of topics is not known; is there a way to vote remotely? In NY could debate at forums, then vote; would love to see a change
- Hard time figuring out how town government works; no place to go to see how town works; need Town Meeting 101

Town Center

- Want more businesses in Town Center; don't want empty storefronts; want non-chain stores; more dinnertime options; figure out a way to draw people into TC for a weekend evening with family

Question: Do you participate in town government or activities?

Health Dept.

- Like that we can get flu shots at Town Building

COA

- Use SHINE; once in a while go to program like class on ukulele

Other

- Involved in Transition and Wayland Walks
- Volunteer at school, principal search, school council but don't know what is going on on town side?

Question: Selectmen trying to balance need for service with town finances; which services would you give up to save money?

- Very difficult to say; easy to think of things to add, hard to cut
- Who comes to these amounts?
- What is in retirement numbers?

- Would need to know number of people in departments
- This does not give us enough data, need benchmarks
- We benchmark against other towns with similar character; hard to compare; anything out of line?
- It's about efficiency; learn from other communities
- In NY long range planning meeting where superintendent asked participants to make tradeoffs in budget; put people in shoes of BoS or SC; conclusion was that protecting classroom most important
- Great way for people to get to know each other; can this listening session be the start?

Communication

What is the best way (other ways) to reach you?

- On line something; would have to be high profile; website itself could have hot issues
- E-mails – once a month, very short and concise with link to more in-depth info
- WaylandNews is very good
- Individual schools send email on Tuesday, all schools e-mail on Wednesday
- Would appreciate having something once a week or once a month, at standard time, like the schools
- On-line much better – push
- Language needs to be very clear and simple and readable, not like bylaws which are too confusing; no “pharmacy” words, include contact information
- We need something regular from Selectmen; would make me feel much more a part of the town, more included

Any interest in volunteering?

- Happy to volunteer; background is finance, data, analytical ability; good at taking things that are complex and breaking them down
- Thank you. I'll try to identify opportunities
- There is some level of divisiveness that makes it difficult to participate
- It's so different in other places

Anything else?

- Likes Police Dept. role with the schools
- School nurse and administration very helpful; team effort
- Question about who decides on the budget

Thank you!