



NAN BALMER
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
TEL. (508) 358-7755
www.wayland.ma.us

TOWN OF WAYLAND

41 COCHITUATE ROAD
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 #5
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.
Wayland Public Library, Raytheon Room
5 Concord Road, Wayland

Attendance: Subcommittee member Mary M. Antes

Absent: Subcommittee member Lea T. Anderson

Others in attendance: Jean Milburn (facilitator), Cherry Karlson (BoS listener), Nita Desai, Vikas Desai, Fred Goldman, Aina Lagor, Cynthia Lavenson, Doug Levine, Heather Ryan, Jonathan Smith, Win Treese

Welcome and introductions Facilitator, Jean Milburn, welcomed nine members of the community to the fifth of eight Listening Sessions at 2:30 p.m. in the Raytheon Room of the Wayland Public Library. She gave a brief statement of her background and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. She explained that Selectman Mary Antes was 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.

Adjourn The listening session ended at 4:00 p.m.

Items Distributed for Information and Use by the Listening Session attendees at Listening Session #5 on February 5, 2017

1. Handout from FY18 Recommendations on Budget Guideline dated August 2016 – charts ranking Wayland among peer towns
2. 2017 budget breakdown

Items Included as Part of Agenda Packet for Discussion During the January 26, 2017 Listening Session
There were none.

Respectfully submitted: Mary M. Antes

LISTENING SESSION #5 NOTES
Sunday, February 5, 2017
Wayland Public Library

Facilitator: Jean Milburn

Selectmen: Mary Antes, Recorder, Cherry Karlson, Listener

Question: What town services do you use and how well do they serve your needs?

Conservation

- Conservation restriction on covered Bridge means they are losing their privacy. They were told the builder would provide a buffer but has not done so.

DPW

- Apache Drive is reached by driving through Town of Weston streets. There is a clear demarcation in snow plowing. The Wayland streets are not cleared as well.
- Mailboxes damaged by snow plows in Weston are repaired at town expense while Wayland does not repair or pay for repairs.
- Pelham Island Road was in very bad shape and has finally been topped off.
- Would like to see transfer station open more often
- Unsure of the difference between black trash bags and orange bags
- Always have a water ban; no ban in Weston (MA because of MWRA water?)

Emergency Services

- Pelham Island floods periodically and is periodically cut off at both ends. The town responds quickly but not always with thought. There is usually a fair amount of warning with this kind of flooding.

Land Use Departments

- Large equipment from the Covered Bridge development has been parked adjacent to a home on Apache Drive for three years. Owners have had no satisfaction from the town. Owners haven't used many town services and haven't been helped when they did use town services.
- A new medical practice in the town center is being held up in the permitting process. Wastewater will not meet until mid-February; then they must go to the Board of Health for approval before being able to outfit their new offices. There must also be a test for asbestos in a building that is only four years old. The practice is scheduled to open in April and they won't be ready because of the permitting process. They chose to stay in Wayland and now regret that they didn't open their practice in Weston
- Solar usage is good

Question: What is working well?

- Parks and trails
- Schools
- COA
- All dealings in the building have been positive
- Library does a good job
- Recreation programs are great
- Town beach

- EMS
- Friends say the transfer station is good

Question: What could be improved?

- Town Meeting
 - Length is a turn-off to some who would participate
 - Could watch on cable and participate from home
 - It didn't used to take so long
 - Young families less able to attend; mostly older diehards attend
 - Core people talk and talk and talk; restrict the number of times a person can talk
 - Several articles are of most interest; put those at the beginning
 - Time wasted by Moderator talking
- Data privacy and management, real issue
 - Should use https, not http
 - Have been working with schools but little progress although pleased with new director
 - No longer uses websites
 - Data privacy and management should not be complicated but it is; cost is trivial
 - Issue is the host
- Information flow
 - Hear more from other people than from the town
 - Would like to go to the web to find out what is going on
 - Google doc: who to go for what, would be helpful way to get information from website
- Keep town beach open until Labor Day (understands that life guards go back to school)

Question: Taxes?

- With the town center income, tax bill continues to go up, an increase out of proportion
- Limited services
- Appraisals have gone way up and taxes jumped; we pay more taxes than Weston
- How to achieve a balance between spending and property taxes
- In Dr. Stein's budget presentation, he demonstrates what cuts would result from a level-funded budget, what we have less control over, etc. It helps residents understand the budget
- Lots of good work leading to financial efficiency
- Two people said electronic voting is not worth the cost
- Problem is that we don't know what we don't know
- Sometimes things seem expensive and turn out not to be—police cars, for example

Question: Communication

- Weekly, bi-weekly email that people can opt in, inexpensive; want to make sure the email adds value, correction of incorrect facts; realize that this is a lot of work
- Consensus that giving their email to the town is not an issue
- Educate residents about where money goes, then residents can figure out their tax value
- Knowing the taxes businesses are paying might encourage residents to use town businesses
- Work on the town's image; ombudsman role
- Connect with the Wayland Student Press Network

Question: Skills to Share

- Opioid education and intervention
- Interested in knowing what opportunities besides serving on a board
- Analytic modeling