

Wayland Cares Review Committee – DRAFT minutes for November 6, 2013 at the Wayland Town Building's Selectmen's Meeting Room

Gail Shapiro, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. The meeting was being recorded by video

In Attendance: Gail Shapiro, Leslie Corner, Shirley Jacobson, Katie Lee, Joe Barrett, Selectman Ed Collins

Gail Shapiro thanked the committee for their work and asked Joe Barrett to record the minutes.

Katie Lee requested time to review the minutes.

The minutes for the October 30 meeting were discussed and Leslie Corner requested that Dr. Stein's comment about Wayland Cares not having a defined mission was in his opinion a positive aspect be added to the minutes.

Shirley Jacobson requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that she had moved to adjourn and Gail Shapiro seconded.

The October 30 minutes were approved with those corrections.

Joe Barrett when asked by the Chair discussed community concerns concerning the salaries of Wayland Cares personnel and how despite conversations with Betsy Meindl has been unable to reconcile the hourly wage discrepancies brought to the attention of the Wayland Cares Review Committee by a Wayland citizen and expressed by other citizens. Joe and Betsy will meet again and compare notes in order to try to resolve the issue.

Katie Lee stated she had ongoing family issues and did not know when they would be resolved and requested an extension of the Review Committee's end date. Shirley agreed that it should be extended and Gail reminded the committee that an extension was discussed in the previous meeting and it was agreed at the time that any further extension would not be of any benefit.

Gail asked about the extension to newly arrived BOS member Ed Collins who stated that the committee could not extend itself but would have to request that through the BOS, whom Ed Collins surmised in his personal opinion would be inclined to approve.

Gail explained that the draft report is now a public document and any citizen can review it.

Katie made a motion to ask for the extension until November 30 (a Saturday, so changed to December 2), which was seconded by Shirley. A vote was taken and Leslie Corner joined in the yeas while Joe Barrett and Gail Shapiro voted against. The motion passed 3-2. After the vote Katie Lee departed the meeting citing family issues.

Shirley proposed adjourning as Katie was no longer present and she made a motion which was seconded by Leslie. When put to a vote Gail and Joe voted against and as the vote ended 2-2, the motion did not pass.

Shirley expressed concerns about the draft report and specifically mentioned the phrase "concerns about the administration" of Wayland Cares in the Executive Summary. Gail tells Shirley that those were concerns expressed by Wayland citizens to members of the Review Committee and Joe stated that the report needed to do its due diligence and address the issues raised by several taxpayers.

Leslie Corner states that she feels as if she is being "bullied" and departs the meeting.

The remaining three members continue to discuss the draft report and Shirley states that she objects to the word "surprise" as reference to the vote at Town Meeting regarding the Wayland Cares Sustainability article. Gail states that the word surprise was expressed by several Wayland residents regarding the article. Gail states that the article stated that Wayland Cares would be staffed by two non-benefit employees but if, in fact, one of those were to be filled by a Town employee currently working part-time, then that employee would be eligible to receive benefits.

Shirley complains that Gail did too much work on the report.

Joe stated he had issues with the draft report and asked that the word "strong" be used when referring to the Review Committee's recommendation and Gail pointed out that it is used on Page 37 of the Recommendation section.

Shirley asks about the word "oversight" and Gail informs her that the oversight would be conducted by the hosting agency, presumably the Wayland Youth and Family Services. Gail discussed the issue of Wayland Cares as a nonprofit or a not-for-profit and that the Review committee had mentioned that as a second viable option.

Shirley said she did not know that money would be discussed in the Review and questioned why the Wayland Cares staff raises were included in the report. Joe explained that he had been asked by Gail to review a complaint made by a resident concerning Wayland Cares hourly wages. Joe stated that the staff was paid as if they were on salary – each check being equal – and that there were discrepancies in the hourly wage due to the number of hours reported.

Gail reported that her research, including reviewing 5 years of School Committee minutes, failed to disclose if the School Committee ever formally approved the Federal grant received by Wayland Cares and she states this may be a legal violation.

Shirley stated she trusts the Wayland Cares staff and Joe agrees but tells her that they need to address the pay issue especially as the overall report recommends town funding and so any negative citizen concerns should be addressed. Gail states that the town department overseeing Wayland Cares in the future would decide the salary issue.

Gail will send an email to determine the next meeting. Gail states that in the unlikely case the BOS do not approve the extension, she proposes that Joe's minutes be accepted in draft form. Gail make a motion, Joe seconds and they vote yea while Shirley abstains. Ed Collins states he will bring the issue before the Board of Selectmen tonight.

The public comment began and Betsy Meindl asked about the correct posting of the October 16 minutes. She also reminded everyone that her salary increase was due to a change in her job description.

Nancy Leifer, who serves on the Council on Aging, but who was speaking as a private citizen, said that she was one of the anonymous interviewee sources who spoke to Gail and that Nancy objected to Wayland Cares idea in their latest Federal grant proposal to address the medical marijuana.

Gil Wolin, who serves on the Finance Committee, but who was speaking as a private citizen, states that 150 people voted against the article at the Town Meeting and so it is important to know, understand and address these citizens' objections in order to ensure that Wayland Cares continues as an organization.

Betsy asked about the procedural steps for any objections to the report. She also questioned why the interviews of Town meeting attendees were included. Gail informs her that the interviews used to draft the report both with the voters and with the Town officials were in fact anecdotal, not scientific, as we are working as citizens, not as social scientists.

Heidi Heilman states that she believed the report is disingenuous and discusses the salary structure which was arranged by the Town. She states that the medical marijuana portion was a Federal requirement for the grant.

Heidi confirms that the Wayland Cares Executive Committee did not report to anyone.

Betsy Meindl requests to meet with Joe to re-examine the salary issue.

Ed Collins asks about the School Committee's role as a fiscal Agent for Wayland Cares and Betsy Meindl explains.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.
Respectfully submitted by Joseph P. Barrett