



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

February, 2010

No. 124

OPENING MESSAGE

Barbara Hill

League of Women Voters of Weston

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Editor 781-891-9549

This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

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kate@weichi.com

Once again, with great pleasure, I am able to share my thoughts with you in our monthly League Bulletin Opening Message. And again, the most important thought that comes to my mind is to express my thanks, and my admiration, for the thoughtful, steadfast and caring work done by the entire Weston League Board. Without fail, if a request is made, someone volunteers. Often people volunteer even before a request is floated. People are generous with their time, their perspective on issues and their effort. There are differences of opinion, but I have never heard a nasty or disrespectful word spoken at a Board meeting to another member. (I would be happy to have even more perspectives, more viewpoints and more differences of opinion, so if you think you have a different viewpoint, know it is welcome – perhaps you will find or persuade others.)

This, then, brings me to the broader subject: civility in government. There have been unanimous votes at Town Meeting over the years. There have also been hotly debated and fiercely divided debates. Ultimately, in our town, majority (or super-majority, when called for) wins. People may long debate a “wrong” result from a Town Meeting vote, but the vote carries. Sometimes an issue resurfaces – like the Public Works Building, in recent example. Long ago, Weston Town Meeting rejected the notion of buying two lots, instead buying only one lot - where today our Old Library now stands. If, at that time, Town Meeting had agreed to purchase the second lot, that is, the Josiah Smith Tavern, we would not today be debating what to do with that building – and possibly our library would still be in a bigger “old Library.”

Old as I am, I was not there for that original debate, but I certainly hope it was more civil, less personal and more factual than the debate we encountered recently over the proposal for these two lots (both at and prior to the actual Town Meeting). There were, and are, many good reasons to support or oppose

the plan that was presented at Special Town Meeting for the uses of those two buildings. However, I was extraordinarily disappointed that the enormous time and effort, and the thoroughness of the process over seven long years, was impugned. Worse, the integrity of the members of the Josiah Smith Tavern/Old Library Committee members was attacked wholly without justification. To those who stooped to such tactics, and to those who were rude at Town Meeting, I say, out loud and with as much respect as I can muster, "Shame on you."

Now we are left to go back to the original question: what to do with these buildings. I think there is general consensus that doing nothing is not an option. I applaud our Selectmen for setting the right tone for the upcoming discussion, for setting a wonderful example, and for stopping incivility immediately in its tracks. Whatever the outcome, I implore each of you (and each of the many friends, neighbors and acquaintances you can persuade), please ensure that the discussion is factual, truthful, and based on the buildings, without personal attacks. Disagree, by all means, but do not be disagreeable about it.

Incivility also reared its ugly head at the recent special elections (primary and Senate). Apparently

some people were not familiar with the voting procedures in Weston. Some small number of people were unexpectedly not on the voter rolls, and thus, they were ineligible to vote. I've heard stories about other voting districts (think the South, or stories out of Ohio a few years back....) of voter tampering, voter fraud, voter intimidation or the like. However, I haven't heard such stories out of Weston, Massachusetts. Seems that if there was a problem, the right result would be to take it up with our Town Clerk – or her representative at the voting precinct – POLITELY. Apparently some people instead yelled at poll workers, wanted a ballot nonetheless, and otherwise behaved poorly. On the other side of the poll table, I heard that some poll workers seemed to be peeking at ballots as they were placed into the voting box. Do we need to remind poll workers that this is a secret ballot? Voters need to be respectful of poll workers, and poll workers need to be respectful of voters. Doesn't that sound reasonable????

Yes, I have lost my own temper on many occasions. (Ask my kids!) However, we need to set standards for ourselves and be responsible for our own behavior - particularly when tested. While we might not always meet those standards – it is worth aiming for them, and perhaps even exceeding them.

To the Editor:

Upon first consideration, Harvard's alternate proposal for remediation of the Case Estates (hereafter referred to as Option 2) might appear to be an attractive alternative to the more extensive and expensive disruption to the site of the original remediation plan (Option 1). However, upon further consideration, Option 2 – which suggests that Harvard retain control of several scattered chunks of the acreage, some of them quite large, and remediate only the very worst areas by covering them over rather than removing the contaminated soil – looks to be not a propitious



scenario for the Town, despite the proffered discount of \$5 million.

Under Option 2, Harvard would grant a use easement to the Town over the acreage they retain, allowing for passive recreation, but in my opinion, Option 2 would eviscerate the land by carving up the parcel to such an extent that it would effectively cripple the potential for future allowable uses of the clean land that would be transferred to the Town, conferring little benefit over what we have now: viewscapes of beautiful but contaminated property that we don't control that is only available for passive recreation.

The Weston Land Trust is studying a hybrid plan, a compromise between Option 1 and Option 2. The hybrid proposal would minimize in both number and size the parcels which would be retained by Harvard according to Option 2, correspondingly increasing the acreage which would be transferred to the Town, although still less than the 62 acres of Option 1; it would require remediation to a level of unrestricted use of the acreage that would be transferred. Overall, the amount of cleanup would be less extensive than with Option 1, because Harvard would retain several discrete areas of vegetation with important landscape features. These areas would be sensitively demarcated and left largely unremediated. Other important provisions have not yet been fully articulated and

agreed upon by the Land Trust Board working in concert with abutters. Most likely, they will recommend their compromise to the Selectmen, once they have finalized the terms of their proposal. In the end, the Board of Selectmen and Harvard must agree to terms that will most assuredly need to be brought before Weston Town Meeting once again. If full cleanup of the entire site is so politically unpopular and/or otherwise so problematic as to be unfeasible, I hope that all parties will continue to work as constructively as they have in the past to come to an accord that confers control of more clean acreage to the Town than what was outlined in Option 2.

Robin Reisman

League of Women Voters of Weston
wishes to extend sincere thanks to the following Friends
and Sponsors who have generously given their support to our work.

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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY – MAY 2010

- March 2, Tuesday.....Lyme Time program on
7:30 P.M., Weston Middle School Prevention, Diagnosis
Amy Potter Center and Treatment of
Lyme Disease**
- March 8, Monday.....Town Caucus
7:30 P.M., Weston Town Hall
Auditorium**
- March 9, Tuesday.....LWVW Board Meeting
9:15 A.M., 155 Conant Rd
(Katherine Wolfthal, 781-891-9549)**
- March 21, Sunday.....Annual Wayland-Weston-
2:00 – 4:30 P.M. Sudbury Civics Bee
Country School Cafetorium**
- April 13, TuesdayLWVW Board Meeting
9:15 A.M., 376 Glen Rd
(Barbara Hill, 781-235-8861)**
- April 28, Wednesday.....Candidates' Night
7:30 P.M., Location TBA**
- May 3, Monday..... Town Budget Hearing
Weston Town Hall**
- May 8, Saturday.....Town Elections
Weston Town Hall Auditorium**
- May 10, Monday..... Annual Town Meeting
7:30 P.M., Weston High School Auditorium**

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

President

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

U.S. Senators

- The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
2400 JFK Building
Boston, MA 02203

(617)565-3170
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-4543
senator@kennedy.senate.gov

- The Honorable John F. Kerry
One Bowdoin Square, Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617)565-8519
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202)224-2742
E-mail: john_kerry@kerry.senate.gov

U.S. Representative 7th District

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
(781)396-2900
(202)225-2836
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202)225-2836
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Governor

Governor Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 360
Boston MA 02133
(617)727-3600
E-mail: Goffice@state.ma.us

State Senator 5th Middlesex District

The Honorable Susan Fargo
(617)722-1572
State House, Room 505
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: sfargo@senate.state.ma.us
Home: (781) 259-9623

State Representative 4th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617)722-2320
(781)237-4719
State House, Room 26
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: rep.alicepeisch@hou.state.ma.us

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau
Secretary

The treasurer reported that our finances are in pretty good shape, with new members and the bulletin ads and sponsors that Robin Coutts has recruited.

Coffee Hours: We will have a coffee hour before the Town Meeting (May 1 or the end of April) to discuss warrant issues. There will probably be a warrant dealing with the Case Estates' purchase by the town, since the original agreement is being changed.

Candidates' Night was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 28.

There was a discussion of etiquette and civility at the polls. There was a question about privacy of the ballot; not everyone knows about the privacy sleeves that are available. When a person can change registration after moving was also unclear. Some of the procedures should probably be clarified for the workers and the public.

Lyme Time: March 2, 7:30 P.M. The main speakers for this event will be Constance Bean who wrote *Beating Lyme* based on her own experience and research, Dr. Ertel of the pediatric group, and Kurt Upham who will talk about what people can do in their own yards. Wendy Diotalevi will also speak for a short time, but she has very little information about the number of Lyme cases in Weston. There was some discussion of how to get this information. Dragon Books will bring some copies of Constance Bean's book for those who are interested in buying it.

This program will be publicized through the schools and garden clubs as well as to the general public.

Civics Bee: March 21 – Diana and Katty have been working on this program. We now have two of our three adult team members, Tony Nolan and Marcy Dorna. The schools have been very enthusiastic about choosing the Middle and High School teams. Some of last year's participants asked to compete again, but it was decided

not to allow this. Since this is the 90th anniversary of the LVW there will be some information about its origin and the suffrage movement.

CPC News: There will be a public hearing on March 15 on the proposals that have been submitted to the committee. There are some

preservation restrictions being considered. The Case Estates may come up. It is unlikely that anything will be done about the library or Jones House this year.

The LWV national convention will be held in Atlanta on Jun 11-15.



LYME TIME EVENT ON MARCH 2

Barbara Fullerton

Lyme disease, unfortunately, is becoming more familiar to those of us living in the suburbs. Most of us have had Lyme disease, or personally know someone who has. Some of us were lucky enough to see a tick and to be able to make the connection between the tick bite and a host of symptoms, such as rash, horrific headache, stiff neck, and achy joints and were treated for the disease. For a variety of reasons, some individuals may not have realized that they were bitten, or didn't know that their flu-like symptoms were caused by Lyme disease and their treatment was delayed.

The Weston League of Women Voters is sponsoring an event on Tues., Mar. 2, in order to educate the public about the symptoms and treatment of Lyme disease.

Constance Bean, the author of "Beating Lyme" and former member of the Wayland Board of Health, will be speaking about a prolonged search for what ended as a personal Lyme disease diagnosis. She will describe tests used to diagnose Lyme disease, and issues associated with the disease, including the life cycle of the deer tick, an important element in the spread of the disease.

Dr. Corinne Ertel, a physician with the Weston Pediatric Physicians group, will discuss her experience in diagnosing and treating children with Lyme disease.

Kurt Upham, a landscaper and owner of Oh Deer, will present ways that people can make their yards less friendly to the deer and deer ticks, and thereby reduce their exposure to the disease. Wendy Diotalevi, the director of the Weston Board of Health, will talk about the incidence of Lyme disease in Weston, and any options Weston has to try to reduce the incidence of the disease.

Lyme Time will take place on Tues., March 2 at 7:30 pm, with refreshments at 7:15.

It will be held in the Amy Potter Center at the Weston Middle School, 456 Wellesley St. in Weston.



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of the
League of
Women Voters.***

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CIVICS BEE Katty Chace

Weston is in the final stages of putting together its nine person Civics team to compete against Wayland and Sudbury. Scheduled for Sunday, March 21 from 2:00 to 4:30 pm, the Bee will take place in the Country School Cafetorium. We are trying to hold on to the eagle trophy we won last year in Wayland.



questions about Massachusetts state government (in honor of the upcoming gubernatorial elections in November) and questions about the suffrage movement (in honor of the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters).

Tony Nolan and Marcy Dorna have agreed to represent Weston, so we need one more adult for the team. Four High Schoolers have volunteered to participate, and the Middle School plans to hold a competition amongst the 8th grade classes to find three participants from the Middle School. In addition to questions about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Amendments, this year we will also include some

Questions will take various forms, including a lightening round, some fill-in-the-blanks, some multiple choice, and some brain-teasers that the whole team will wrestle with collectively. Zaxaro Bennett, President of the state League, will serve as our Moderator. Boston College Professor Richard Albert has agreed to be our judge. The event should be fun for all involved. Please put it on your calendars and join us to root for the home team.

WESTON COUNCIL ON AGING GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP 2010

Thursdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, from 1:30- 3:00 pm.

Great Decisions is the name of a briefing book and a program to engage citizens in learning about the world. This discussion group offers the opportunity to learn in depth about the global challenges that affect our lives in a myriad of ways.

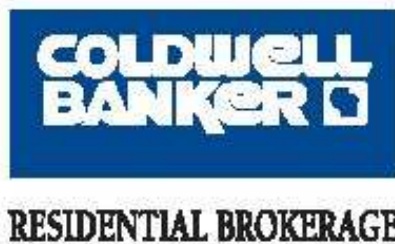
We invite you to join Foreign Policy Association discussion group 2010 to look at eight topics: Special Envoys, Kenya & R2P, Global Crime, U.S. China Security Relations, Global Financial Crisis, Russia and its Neighbors, The Persian Gulf, and Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution.

We welcome participants of all ages.

If you are interested in "looking beyond the headlines", please call the COA at 781-893-0154 for more information and to sign up.

Fee: \$25 for the briefing book

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CASE ESTATES

Kay McCahan

Chairman of the Case Estates Review Committee, June 2005 – May 2006

We “are prepared to meet to discuss the possible sale of the Case Estates to the Town” said the Director of the Arnold Arboretum in a letter sent to the Weston Selectmen five years ago in January 2005. We are still meeting and discussing.

Though the town voted unanimously to acquire the Case Estates, the purchase and sale agreement was contingent on testing the property for contaminants which might remain from pesticides and herbicides used during the many years when the land was used for agricultural and horticultural purposes.



Winter: This is a photo of the little parking area within the Case Estates off Wellesley Street. Visitors to the property can cross-country ski from here north down a little cart path to the schools, Linwood cemetery and open land. Or if you go right, west, along the Pine Woods you may enter the Rhododendron Display Area and can go down a hill, through the woods to Alphabet Lane. This picture illustrates the variety of trails that connect to other community resources. It shows the many opportunities for passive recreation at all seasons of the year and the sheer undisturbed beauty of the place.

As most of you know, contaminants were found, and for the last three years Weston and Harvard have been going back and forth on the adequacy of the testing and the appropriate cleanup plan. Harvard has hired Haley and Aldrich which is a well known firm that has supervised many

cleanup jobs including the super fund site at Wellesley College where there was contamination from a paint factory. At Case they have done at least 700 test borings but still more tests are necessary.

Haley and Aldrich initially presented a cleanup plan at a meeting with the Planning Board in April of last year and subsequently held site walks of the property. There has been a series of public meetings sponsored by the Selectmen, some of them with Harvard presenting their mitigation plans. All of these meetings have been well advertised and open to the public.

Reactions from those who attended all the meetings in 2009 were many and varied.

From the beginning, the Selectmen made it clear they did not want the town to retain contaminated land because of the uncertainty of future liability. Some people were distressed that mature trees and shrubs would be removed in a cleanup process that excavated contaminated soils and replaced them with clean soils and new vegetation; some abutters were concerned about dust generated during cleanup; and some others were concerned about the amount of truck traffic generated by the cleanup process. Harvard has estimated that this cleanup process will take 4 or 5 months to complete and over 750 truckloads of contaminated soil will have to be removed and replaced with clean soil.

More recently Harvard proposed an Alternative Remediation Process. This alternative was described at two public meetings, on December 17, 2009 and January 28, 2010. This alternative approach proposes that Harvard would retain the deed to 15 -17 acres of contaminated land so the Town’s future liability exposure is reduced. A limited number of “hot spots” on this land would be covered with fabric and one foot of new soil.

The remainder of the contaminated land would be left as is and placed under a deed restriction as required by the MassDEP regulations, limiting the future use of that land. The proposed concept means reduction in dust, fewer truck trips and less cleanup time. The new concept includes a substantial reduction in the price to be paid by Weston for the land, but fewer lots would be available for resale due to the contamination and use restrictions.

At the moment there is a robust discussion among all the parties. I am sure that if you talk with anyone involved you will get an opinion on the issues. I am not sure where the cleanup discussions will end up, but I have come to some general observations about the last five years of work on the Case issues. Here are some observations, from my personal viewpoint:

Many volunteers, including the Selectmen, have spent an enormous amount of time and energy on this project. We would not have come so far without the dedication of all these public servants. After the sale offer in 2005, hundreds of citizens rolled up their sleeves and voted unanimously at a Town Meeting in 2006 to take ownership of the Case Estates. We wanted to take "custody and control" of the destiny of this special property in the center of our town.

There has been a sincere and timely effort to keep the public informed. Numerous well-advertised public meetings have been held. The Selectmen have received and solicited input from concerned residents and have tried to address those issues in the public meetings.

Harvard also, as part of the public involvement provisions of the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, is in contact with interested citizens and has created public information repositories at the Weston Public Library and the Weston Board of Health. Publically available site files are also located at the MassDEP Northeast Regional Office. There is a Case Estates Website:

<https://clients.haleyaldrich.com/weston>, Logon: haleyaldrich/case_estates, Password: 2009Estate.

There has been transparency about the cleanup issues because of the public involvement process. At the end of this article I will list websites that contain information. The Weston Cable Studio has filmed all the meetings and these can be seen on Channel 9 or can be borrowed from the Brook School office, 781 642 8508.



Early spring at the Case Estates. Between late February and March, the Witch hazel (*Hamamelis japonica X H., mollis* 'Arnold Promise' will be blooming. This variety was developed at the Arnold Arboretum. It is one of the first blooming shrubs in Weston and is cherished as a sign of spring by the many motorists who drive by this busy corner and enjoy the viewscapes of the Case Estates. Man made plans will come and go but it is quite certain that this little shrub will continue to bloom in this place for years to come.

Weston and Harvard have generally worked together in a professional and cooperative way to bring this issue to closure, while still recognizing their differing objectives. Hopefully all of us citizens have done as well.

Finally, I am humbled by the daunting challenges to solve problems of this complexity. There are many issues and many points of view. We are lucky in Weston to have human resources, financial capacities and a good town government. I urge citizens to come to future meetings which are posted on the town's website and advertised in *The Town Crier*. One such future meeting will

(advertisement)



Health is Beauty

DARYL CHRISTOPHER SALON AND DAY SPA

A Note to the members of the League of Women Voters of Weston

From the very beginning, December 19th, 1979, Daryl Christopher has had one focus, to help our clients balance health and beauty. As pioneers in providing personalized services using products containing natural and organic ingredients, we were the first salon in Massachusetts recognized by the American Cancer Society for being smoke-free, aerosol-free and stress-free, awarded at the Massachusetts Statehouse.

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We invite you to visit us on the web at www.dchristopher.com

Thank you,
Angela Guido, Owner

We support the fine work of the League of Women Voters of Weston

** Toxicity in cosmetics and personal care products has been researched by Horst Rechelbacher, founder of Aveda and Intelligent Nutrients. This information was presented to the Health & Beauty Association Global Expo conference in NYC*

be the Board of Selectmen's March 9 meeting where the Selectmen have asked the Case Estates Review Committee and the Case Estates Building Advisory Committee to offer their input on Harvard's alternative remediation concept.

For more information: See the Town website: www.weston.govoffice.com

News and Events: Notice of meetings; [Case Estates Cleanup Information](#)

[Case Estates – Presentation by Harvard of Alternative Remediation Concept](#)

Under Town Government, Committees, [Case Estates Review Comm](#) and [Case Estates Building Advisory Comm](#). Under Agendas and Minutes: [Case Estate Review Committee minutes](#).

Also see the Case Coalition website: www.caseestates.org , Email: info@case.org

Critical decisions will be made sooner rather than later. It is my hope that we, as a caring community, can find the best way forward for the Case Estates.



OBSERVER CORPS

Robin Peakes Coutts

WESTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 27 and February 9, 2010

Josiah Smith Tavern/Old Library

A report on the Old Library was presented at the Selectmen's Meeting of Jan 27. The Selectmen are currently receiving detailed reports on the condition of the Old Library from the JST/OL Committee and the Permanent Building Committee. A detailed report is accessible on Weston.org, at http://weston.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BA_SIC&SEC={F689D95C-36E9-4ADA-9616-E34BF56AA775}&DE={F99FCF85-2FB7-4703-A8B5-AFAA99F50586}



The interior of the Old Library, circa 1910.

Merriam Street Bridge

The January 27 Selectmen's meeting was attended by a number of residents from the Silver Hill Area, who brought up various safety issues concerning the very old Merriam Street Bridge. Through the years there have been numerous accidents on and around the bridge.

The bridge has been in increasingly poor condition for years, but responsibility rests with the State. Several years ago the State proposed a large-scale replacement which was not at all in keeping with the historic neighborhood. Subsequently, an independent report made detailed recommendations to stabilize the bridge, but notable improvements have not yet been implemented.

Selectman Charlip offered to drive progress on the matter.

At the Selectmen's Meeting on February 9, Town Engineer Steve Fogg reported that he would soon meet with the State's representative to discuss the issue, after which he would meet with the neighbors.