

Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

June 2006

Hingham League

Steering Committee

2006—2007

President: Cindy Coe
Secretary: Judy Parsons
Treasurer: Marisa Costello
Membership Recruiter:
Christine Dietterich
Publicity: Jerry Elsdon
Web Site: Lynn Cotter
Newsletter: Julie Strehle
Advisors: Helga Jorgensen,
Cathy Salisbury

Events Planned for Next Year

Training Workshop
for Observer Corps

Workshop for Newly
Elected Town
Officials

Old Ship Church
325th Anniversary
Mock Town Meeting

Workshop on How
To Run for Local
Office

Green Study Consensus Held at Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting was held on May 24 at the Ninety-Nine Restaurant in Hingham. The evening kicked off with introductions of our members, and some of our veteran members spoke about their experience as a member of HLWV over the years, and how that translated into career opportunities.

It was a special night, because the Green Study Committee presented its findings and proposed a consensus statement for the membership to adopt. The Green Study Committee has been at work since January, and each committee member had studied a different area within the construction and life of a building that is constructed with green or sustainable materials. The subject areas covered were: What is Sustainability, Green Regulations and Bidding, Environmental Impacts, Impact on People, Green Building Materials and Finishes, Green Maintenance and Operations, and Remodeling and Demolition. (See page 3 for Presentation Summaries.)

After the presentation,



Green Study Committee at HLWV Annual Meeting on May 24. From L to R: Elizabeth Fetsko, Lynn Cotter, MJ Shultz, Samantha Anderson, Susan Boyd, Julie Strehle, and Marta Adams.

HLWV membership asked questions and discussed the proposed consensus statement. After some minor editing to the statement, the membership voted in favor of the consensus statement. This new position is printed on page 5 of this newsletter. The full text of the Green Study Presentation and the adopted consensus can be found on our website:

www.hingham.ma

lwnet.org

(HLWV's web site is linked to the Town of Hingham web site, and can also be found using Google or another search

engine.)

The next steps for the Green Study Committee include (but are not limited to) presenting its findings to the public, and lobbying the town on building projects. Many thanks go to the study members for all of their hard work, especially the group's leader, MJ Shultz, who kept it all together.

HLWV President Cindy Coe also conducted league business at our Annual Meeting. The current slate of Steering Committee members will continue to serve for one more year. Cindy also outlined our (cont'd on page 2)



HLWV member and moderator Palma Cortese (far right) introduces uncontested candidates for their two-minute statements at Candidates Night on April 12.



HLWV Members seated in front row of audience at Candidates Night: (L to R) Cindy Coe (President), MJ Shultz, Gretchen Condon (Co-Chair of Candidates' Night) and Dina O'Neil.

Annual Meeting continued...

plans for next year (see box on page 1), which include the reinstatement of Observer Corps, where members observe various town board meetings and report back to the membership. Jane Malme volunteered to conduct a training in Observer Corps in late August or September, so that new members can continue this great tradition. Stay tuned for more information. Don't forget! Our new year has started, so please send in your membership renewal.

Candidates Night Recap

HLWV held its annual Candidates Night in April at Town Hall. The event was co-chaired by Gretchen Condon and Catherine Salisbury. Palma Cortese did an excellent job as moderator again this year.

There was a large audience this year, who submitted thoughtful questions and kept chatter to a minimum as the event was taped for re-broadcast on cable TV. The

uncontested candidates started the evening with prepared statements, and then candidates for the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen fielded questions.

The event was quite well planned and executed, thanks to the hard work of Gretchen and Cathy, so we thank them very much! And many thanks to Palma for moderating.

Contact Your Elected Officials!

Senator Kennedy

315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4543
senator@kennedy.senate.gov

Senator Kerry

304 Russell Bldg., Fl. 3
Washington D.C. 20510
202-224-2742
Senator@kerry.senate.gov

Congressman Delahunt

15 Cottage Avenue
Quincy, MA 02169
617-770-3700
In Washington:
1517 Longwood Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3111
William.Delahunt@mail.house.gov

MA State Senator Bob Hedlund

State House, Room 413F
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-1646
RHedlund@senate.state.ma.us

MA State Rep. Garrett Bradley

State House, Room 472
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2120
Rep.GarrettBradley@hou.state.ma.us

GREEN STUDY PRESENTATION SUMMARIES

What is Sustainability?

- Sustainable design is a holistic approach that encompasses the design, construction, operation, renovation and eventual replacement of a building. It is a multi-phased and continuous process to minimize buildings' negative effects on the environment.
- US Green Building Council (USGBC) developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system to qualify and quantify sustainable building design.
- LEED rates 5 categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality.
- Sustainable design cost estimates range from 5% increase in total costs to potentially reducing project costs.
- While LEED certification can be costly and time consuming, its goals and guidelines are worth pursuing even if certification is not a goal.

Green Regulations and Bidding

- No federal, state or local mandate exists today.
- MA has a variety of programs and incentive grants in place.
- Hingham has options in the language of its RFPs, in the points awarded in bid review, in its zoning, planning and committee-charter documents, and in the use of financial incentives.
- Life Cycle Costing requires consideration in a single analysis not only of both costs and benefits over the life of the project but also of capital and operating budgets for the proposed project.

Why Green? Environmental Impacts

- Current non-renewable energy sources create substantial amounts of air pollution, contributing to acid rain, global warming and water contamination.
 - Non "green" building materials and finishes produce toxic emissions and toxic run-off that contribute to air and water pollution.
 - Sustainable buildings are able to re-use water and reduce the demands on our water supply.
- Massachusetts discards 5 million tons of construction waste annually. Re-use and recycling will reduce landfill content.

Why Green? Impacts on People

- Green/High Performance Bldgs. include design improvements in Air Quality, Temperature Control, Lighting, Acoustics.
- Poor indoor air quality can cause serious illnesses, including asthma. Air quality is improved with the use of low-emitting products and installation of HVAC which is easy to control and maintain.
- Temperature control, better acoustics, and greater natural light all boost performance.
- Green improvements translate into higher test scores, which predict higher future earnings; decrease incidence of asthma, colds, flu; improve teacher/employee attendance and retention.

Green Building Materials and Finishes, Furnishings

- Indoor Air Quality Management Plan
- Recycled and Renewable Content for Materials and Finishes
- Low-Emitting and Local Materials; Energy Star Products
- No Brainers: Easy to implement within standard budgets, e.g. high recycle content and regional materials
- Light Green \$: Green technology with short payback or lifecycle cost / benefit, specified, e.g. occupancy sensors.
- Dark Green \$\$: Innovative green technology with high environmental + educational benefits, e.g. rainwater harvesting for toilet flushing, or renewable energy generation systems.

Green Maintenance and Operations (M&O)

- To be successful M&O must include strategic planning, excellent communications and continuous personnel training.
- A successful M&O program capitalizes on the building's original sustainable design and mitigates the initial green building investment.
- As documented in A Report to California's Sustainable Building Task Force (2003) an upfront investment of less than two percent of construction costs yields life cycle savings over ten times the initial investment.
For example, an initial investment of \$100,000 to incorporate green features into a \$5,000,000 projects would result in a savings of at least \$1,000,000 over the life of the building, assumed conservatively to be 20 years.

Final Phases: Remodeling and Demolition

- Remodeling and Demolition generates waste and costs.
- Deconstruction is a green approach that reduces these associated costs and waste by reusing and recycling building components, such as windows and wood.
- Less common items that can be reused and recycled include: carpet, furniture and aggregate.
- Deconstruction can actually be more economical than disposal, given fees and transport expense.

League of Women Voters Massachusetts Update

Strengthening Voting Rights and Voter Confidence – S.2277

Urge your legislators to support S.2277. This bill will ensure that voters know their rights, are well-served at the polls, and have confidence in the integrity of their elections officials.

The Legislation

- **Providing a Voters' Bill of Rights** The legislation requires that the Secretary of the Commonwealth provide a Voters' Bill of Rights at every polling place, on his/her website, and in appropriate publications of the Secretary.
- **Expanding the Pool of Election Officers** The legislation removes the restriction that election officers must live in that city or town and enables cities and towns to hire poll workers who live in another Massachusetts city or town. Also, the legislation enables people ages 16 and 17 to serve as poll workers, provided they satisfy certain requirements.
- **Ensuring the Continuing Impartiality of Administration of Elections** The legislation prohibits elections officials from serving as campaign chair or co-chair, treasurer, or fundraiser for any campaign other than their own.

Lead Sponsors

Senator Edward Augustus and Representative Anthony Petruccelli, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Election Laws

Talking Points

- Currently six states (California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Minnesota and Nevada) have laws requiring the posting of a Voters' Bill of Rights in every polling place.
- In the 2004 election, the Voters' Bill of Rights, drafted by the League and signed by Governor Romney and Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, and adopted as a Resolution, "Recognizing the Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights," by the Legislature, was voluntarily distributed by Secretary Galvin.
- The National Council of State Legislatures Elections Reform Task Force reports that only 17 states, including Massachusetts, require that poll workers be registered in the community where they work.
- At least 31 states allow students ages 16 and 17 to serve as poll workers if they meet certain criteria. According to the Elections Assistance Commission, the average age of a poll worker today is 72.
- High profile elections officials in other states have faced allegations of election fraud and a perception of impropriety. Some of these allegations revolve around the excessive involvement in political campaigns.

S.2277 has been endorsed by Secretary of the Commonwealth Galvin.

League of Women Voters United States Update

League Urges Support for Reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The League of Women Voters of the United States strongly supports the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and calls upon Congress to reauthorize and restore this important civil rights bill.

"Since our founding, protecting and promoting the right of every citizen to vote has been a guiding principle," said national League president Kay J. Maxwell. "The Voting Rights Act has institutionalized that principle by outlawing discriminatory practices in elections and protecting the rights of minority voters." Unfortunately, there is significant evidence that there are still major barriers to equal minority voter participation. Some minority voters still face obstacles to voting, whether from attempts to dilute the strength of minority voters through unfair redistricting or from the lack of bilingual ballots for citizens who are limited English proficient – the contemporary equivalent of the last century's literacy test. Important provisions in the Voting Rights Act that protect against these barriers are due to expire in 2007. "These sections need to be reauthorized to continue to provide a strong deterrent to persistent voting rights violations," said Maxwell.

The House of Representatives and Senate are considering bills that will restore and reauthorize the VRA, called the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. The League is urging members of Congress to cosponsor and support these bills.

"Americans are proud of the Voting Rights Act and rely on it to protect the essential expression of our democracy, the citizen's right to vote," said Maxwell. "We must reauthorize the historic legislation that guarantees this fundamental right."

It's Time to Renew for a new year of HLWV! Membership Form 2006 – 2007

Hingham League of Women Voters

Send to:
Marisa Costello
43 Woodlock Road
Hingham, MA 02043

Name _____

2nd Member _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email* _____

*We need your email address so we can let you know when a new Voter newsletter is on our website

Individual	\$50.
Household	\$75. (\$50, first member; \$25 second)
Full time student	\$25.
CONTRIBUTION	\$ _____
PAYMENT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

June 2006

HLWV CONSENSUS ADOPTED MAY 24, 2006

To promote the health, productivity and safety of those living, working and learning within the Town, the League of Women Voters of Hingham adopts the goal of making Hingham a sustainable community. Toward that end in both the public and private spheres we will support measures including but not limited to

- adoption of a guiding Town philosophy that calls for sustainable building and practice,
- long-term planning to align Town bylaws, policies and practice appropriately to achieve this goal,
- establishment of sustainability goals and performance standards for major new construction and renovation projects in Hingham
- use of life cycle costing analysis in project planning for all major municipal capital improvement projects,
- integration of sustainable design and engineering concepts and collaboration early in the planning process for municipal improvements,
- stewardship of public resources,
- adoption of optimized energy performance standards and guidelines and energy conservation and renewable energy strategies,
- use of environmentally preferable materials in both construction and maintenance,
- reduction and/or recycling of solid waste,
- provision of appropriate training for Town employees.

**HINGHAM LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS**

231 Leavitt Street
Hingham, MA 02043

*Democracy: The more you use it,
the better it gets!*