

Public Ceremonies Committee Minutes of January 8th, 2020

A meeting of the Public Ceremonies Committee was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 in the Conservation Conference Room in the Wayland Town Building (41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, MA 01778).

Present:

Richard Turner (Chair) George Bernard Rod McLean Donna Bouchard

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 pm.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

This agenda item was taken out of order. The draft minutes from the Committee's December 11, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved (4-0) as submitted.

4. Reading of Correspondence/New Business - Committee Purchasing Procedure, Flagpole Illumination at WW II Memorial, and Discussion of Sign Replacement at WWII Memorial.

Purchasing procedures were discussed. There was a question on how to be reimbursed for personal expenditure made in support of an official function. Richard Turner to discuss procedures for doing this with the Town Finance Director Brian Keveny.

Lighting of the Flagpole at the WWII Memorial. The Department of Public works was contacted by George Bernard and said that a light could be mounted on the utility pole near the flag. DPW will look into how to do this and possibly cover the cost.

Sign Replacement at the WWII Memorial. The Department of Public Works is looking into covering the sign repair or replacement.

5. Reading of Correspondence/ Old Business - Freedom prize update and possible meeting with Kevin Delaney, Appointment of minute taker, Continue Discussion of the Good Governance Award in Memory of C Peter R. Gossels former Moderator.

The order of business was changed as the Gossels family was in attendance.

The Committee received a Memorandum from Dennis Berry (attached) concerning a proposal for the establishment of “The Peter Gossels Good Government Award,” to be awarded annually in memoriam of longtime Wayland resident and public servant, C. Peter R. Gossels. The Memorandum was read and considered in the discussion of the Award.

The Committee recognized Nancy, Elaine and Werner Gossels, who were in attendance, to discuss the proposed annual award. The Committee discussed and approved (4-0) the proposed picture and Bio (attached). The Committee discussed, made minor changes to and approved (4-0) the Plaque and Award wording (attached).

Discussion was held regarding how to notify the public and other Town Boards of the Plaque and creation of the award. It was decided to use the PCC Meeting Minutes and Next Meeting announcement as public and Board notifications.

Nominees for the award will be solicited in the same manner as the Lydia Marie Child award.

An effort will be made to announce the first award winner by the April Town Meeting. If this is not possible an announcement of the plaque and award creation will be made at Town Meeting.

Donna Bouchard to check with the Board of Selectmen on approval of plaque location in the Town Building.

After discussing all ideas and considerations, the Committee thanked the family.

There is a very good chance the Freedom Prize will be awarded at the Veterans Day Ceremony in future years due to Wayland High School curriculum changes. Richard Turner and George Bernard will meet with faculty to determine if this change works with the new curriculum.

It was decided that Meeting Minutes would be taken and prepared on a rotating basis.

6. Committee Members Concerns and Updates

No topics were discussed.

8. Topics Not Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours Prior to the Meeting

No topics were discussed.

9. Set Next Meeting Date

The Committee reviewed the calendar for the date of the next meeting, which is typically scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month. February 12, 2020 was identified as the next date.

10. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made by Donna Bouchard, seconded by Rod McLean, the committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 8:30pm.

Corresponding Documentation:

☐ Three-page proposal for “The Peter Gossels Good Government Award.” ☐
Memorandum from Dennis Berry regarding “The Peter Gossels Good Government Award.”

Submitted By

Rodrick Mc Clean

Approved by a unanimous vote on February 12 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Richard Turner, Chair Public Ceremonies Committee

From: Dennis Berry

Re: Comments on Peter Gossels Award

Date: January 7, 2020

Thank you for the work that has to date gone into the Gossels award and for the upcoming further consideration tomorrow night. I like much of what was said in the paragraph under Peter's picture and the proposed criteria but offer a few additional thoughts. In doing so I must emphasize that my position as the appointing authority for the PCC MUST NOT enter any member's consideration of, support for or opposition to the suggestions I am offering herein. These should solely be taken as coming from someone who knew and wishes to honor Peter but who has also been involved in Wayland town Government for many years and has a professional background in the non-profit world where service awards are often conferred.

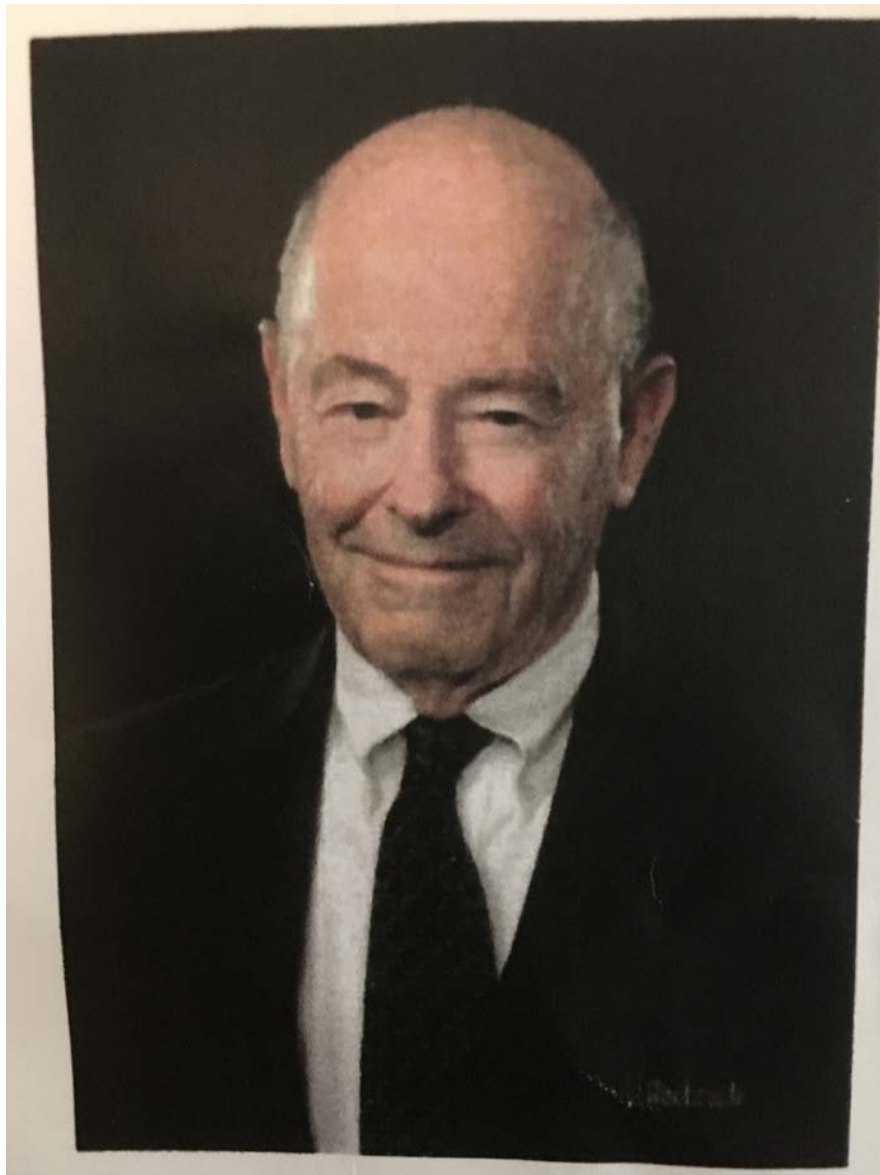
Please think about the following points:

1. Patience. There is no need to rush into anything here. Peter's legacy will be alive for a long time to come. waiting a month or two in order to establish the award and its supporting criteria is prudent.
2. Procedure. Has anyone, or is there any record available, on the establishment of the Lydia Marie Child award. If there is, that should be consulted in order to determine if a similar procedure should be used here or if there is reason to depart from the prior practice, that should be acknowledge.
3. Establishment and Promotion. At the last meeting when I attended, I believe that the PCC agreed that this award was to be established and awarded by the PCC and did not need approval from any other body. I concur. Nevertheless, there should be notice to other bodies and to the public that this award is being considered along with its proposed criteria. I envision this award as an honored part of Town Government that is bestowed on only qualified people. Absent opportunities for others to be aware of and comment on the award and its criteria, this award could become something of an orphan. Given the very public nature of Wayland you should consider a public meeting to present and discuss the establishment of the award.
4. Waiting period. I think there should be a requirement that a recipient be out of office for a term of three years. No one should receive the award because of recent success of a supported project or initiative, nor should they be denied because of opposition to such project or initiative. To the extent reasonable, emotion should be taken out of the consideration. Also, a person running for a contested office should not be able to claim they had received the Gossels award. If they lost that election would be award be diminished. Personally, I would make it five

years out of office, but some might consider this too long. Thus, I suggest three years, which is generally the term of elected and appointed offices.

5. Partisan/non-partisan. Wayland Town Government, as conceived and practiced now, is non-partisan, at least in the sense of non-adherence to an established national political party. Therefore, there seems no need to include non-partisan as prong of the criteria. If one is a passionate about political activity in the state or national sphere but does not bring this into the realm of Wayland town matters, is this per se a disqualification. At the same time if an individual practices the basic precepts of a political party in their dealings in town affairs, but does so with integrity and honesty, does that disqualify.
6. Annual Award. The criteria says that it should be awarded annually. I disagree. It should be conferred when there is a person qualified for it, that may not be annual. To me it somewhat diminishes the award to require it be given annually. Certainly, there is not each and every year a person who meets Peter's qualifications the award should not be watered down just to meet the annual requirement. On the other hand, there may be more than one person at a particular time who is qualified, awarding to multiple recipients should be considered.

Thank you again to the whole committee for your consideration and review of this matter.



C. Peter R. Gossels
In Memoriam 1930-2019

A Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, Peter Gossels was a proud American, an esteemed lawyer and a veteran who cherished democracy. A resident of Wayland for 58 years, he served the town nobly for 50 years, first as a member of the Finance Committee and as Town Counsel and later as Town Meeting Moderator for 30 years from 1982 through 2011. Peter's high standards of personal and professional conduct were exemplary. As a lawyer, his passion for helping his clients and improving the system of justice were hallmarks of his career. As television host of "Ask the Candidates Live," Peter provided a forum to inform both voters and candidates about issues. As Moderator of Wayland's Open Town Meeting, Peter codified and published rules for the proceedings and introduced a balanced format with separate lecterns for Pro and Con and Procedural speakers to inform voters and enhance fairness during debate on each warrant article. He oversaw the introduction of electronic voting which not only recorded precise vote counts and significantly reduced time required to vote on motions but also provided a secret ballot for Town Meeting voters. Peter felt spiritually indebted to those who invested their lives and fortunes to meet the British regulars at Lexington and Concord in order to re-establish and preserve Town Meeting. His non-partisan generosity of spirit, fairness, and passion for good government marked his volunteer service as Moderator of Wayland's Open Town Meeting.

Plaque

The Peter Gossels Good Government Award

The Peter Gossels Good Government Award is bestowed upon a long-time resident of Wayland who has served as a volunteer for 20 years or more with non-partisan generosity of spirit to improve and support operation of good town government. The award honors unpaid, secular service that promotes positive citizen engagement with town government; provides factual information to voters and officials to enhance fairness and well-informed decisions; and may include innovative initiatives that enhance operation of the town of Wayland. The award recognizes an individual who exemplifies Peter's passion for justice, civility, and high standards of conduct. We are proud to honor his outstanding volunteer service to Wayland Town Government by establishing the Peter Gossels Good Government Award to be bestowed annually by the Public Ceremonies Committee in his name.

[illegible]

Notes to the Public Ceremonies Committee:

Proposed location of Picture and Plaque on wall at end of hall near Assessors window.

Names of Honorees to be added to plaque at a public ceremony annually and honored at Town Meeting in the Article recognizing service to the Town of Wayland.

Prior nominations will carry forward and do not need to be resubmitted.

The award may be bestowed posthumously.

The award is for volunteer service to the town but *de minimis* honoraria do not disqualify nominees.

This award is not intended to recognize service or contributions to Wayland schools and/or athletics since there are already awards in place that honor those.

The Gossels family is willing to provide funds for the cost of picture, plaque, and inscribing names of recipients.

Selection Criteria:

A long-time resident of Wayland who has served as a volunteer for 20 years or more with non-partisan generosity of spirit to improve and support operation of good town government. That unpaid, secular, effective and constructive service may include but need not be limited to the following:

Elected or appointed town government office;

Voluntary support functions within town government departments;

Promote positive citizen engagement with town government;

Innovative initiatives that enhance operation of the town of Wayland;

Provide factual information to voters and officials to enhance fairness and well-informed decisions.

Examples include (but not limited to):

- ELVIS Committee (introduced and continues to work on electronic voting at Town Meeting)

- Friends of the Wayland Public Library

- Wayland Voters Network

- WayCAM (coverage of government and candidates)

- Wayland Historical Society

- Others

THE C. PETER R. GOSSELS GOOD GOVERNMENT AWARD

THE C. PETER R. GOSSELS GOOD GOVERNMENT AWARD IS BESTOWED UPON A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF WAYLAND WHO HAS SERVED AS A VOLUNTEER FOR 20 YEARS OR MORE WITH NON-PARTISAN GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT TO IMPROVE AND SUPPORT OPERATION OF GOOD TOWN GOVERNMENT. THE AWARD HONORS UNPAID, SECULAR SERVICE THAT PROMOTES POSITIVE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT WITH TOWN GOVERNMENT; PROVIDES FACTUAL INFORMATION TO VOTERS AND OFFICIALS TO ENHANCE FAIRNESS AND WELL-INFORMED DECISIONS; AND MAY RECOGNIZE INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES THAT ENHANCE OPERATION OF THE TOWN OF WAYLAND.

THE AWARD RECOGNIZES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO EXEMPLIFIES PETER'S PASSION FOR JUSTICE, CIVILITY, AND HIGH STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. WE ARE PROUD TO HONOR HIS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO WAYLAND TOWN GOVERNMENT BY ESTABLISHING THE C. PETER R. GOSSELS GOOD GOVERNMENT AWARD TO BE BESTOWED BY THE PUBLIC CEREMONIES COMMITTEE IN HIS NAME.

George Washington, Jr.
2020