

TOWN MEETING STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE  
(TMSIC)

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Renaldo A. Deluzio being in the chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting were: Renaldo A. Deluzio, Brian Long, , Richard A. Heller, Charles Clark, Joe Morais, Michael Visconti, and Gregory Johnson. Absent from the meeting was Christine Crean. Moderator Michael Bon Tempo was present. No members of the Participating Applicants to the Committee were present.

Chairman Deluzio announced the meeting was being audio recorded and asked if there were any objections. Hearing no objections, the meeting was recorded.

Administrative Item: Due to less than full committee meeting attendance and meeting cancellations since the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Meeting, we are late in the election of TMSIC officers. Chairman DeLuzio asked for nominations. It was moved and seconded to nominate Renaldo A. DeLuzio for Chair. Motion passed unanimously. It was moved and seconded to nominate Brian Long for Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously. It was moved and seconded to nominate Christine Crean (in absentia) for Clerk. Motion passed unanimously pending Ms. Crean's acceptance. *[Note: Ms. Crean accepted.]*

**1. Approve the May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes:**

Chairman DeLuzio had not been able to prepare the May 18, 2023 minutes. He will have them ready for the next meeting.

**2. Invitation to speak:** No one from the public being present, an invitation to speak was unnecessary.

**3. Town Meeting Member's Email Address Authorization Status:**

Chairman DeLuzio handed out and reviewed a chronology of email exchanges between himself and Christopher George from June 8th through July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In summary:

Chairman DeLuzio notified Mr. George that the number of responses was inadequate and requested Mr. George send out a reminder email to those who did not respond. Initially Mr. George refused to do so. Chairman DeLuzio made it clear to Mr. George that the TMSIC cannot efficiently communicate with Town Meeting Members and conduct surveys without timely support from the IT Dept. The US mail alternative is untenable. After 7 email exchanges he agreed to send out **only one reminder email**. Mr. Goerge agreed that it was technically easy to do.

Chairman DeLuzio handed out a copy of the reminder email that he intends to provide to Mr. George. The committee had no objection to proceeding with the reminder email. Significant discussion ensued by committee members regarding why Town Meeting Members are not responding. There were no viable suggestions on how to convince Town Meeting Members to participate, especially without being able to communicate with them via email.

#### 4. May 9, 2023 ATM – Warrant Article 11 Issue (Brian Long)

Mr. Long reported that Attorney Moody rose to present the article and proceeded to speak on the merits of the article without making the motion (confirmed on the Town Meeting recording). The Town Meeting voted on the article without a motion being read. He brought this issue to the attention of the Moderator and the Town Clerk. He handed out the Moderator's response (Attachment 1).

The Moderator explained that a motion was properly made when Attorney Moody provided copies of the written motion to him and the Town Clerk, that it was shown on the screen, and that he (the Moderator) restated the written motion to the assembly before the vote was taken.

Mr. Long had no issue with the Moderator's explanation. He suggested that perhaps eliminating reading some motions may be something to pursue to save some time at town meeting and make it more efficient.

Chairman DeLuzio reminded the Committee that we had conducted a time study of Milford Town Meeting recordings to determine how much time could be saved by the Moderator not repeating motions. It showed that approximately 20 minutes could be saved on a 3-hour meeting.

Moderator Bon Tempo's issue with not having the motion read and just putting it up on the screen is that it could create a conflict with a Town Meeting Member reading/grasping what is in the motion and trying to listen to the proponent's presentation at the same time. He favored the proponent read the motion and the Moderator repeats the motion only when someone speaks in opposition. The Moderator also favors having liquor license motions read even though they are lengthy.

By consensus, the Committee agreed to have further discussion on this topic at a future meeting.

#### 5. Town Meeting Procedural Guide Status

Chairman DeLuzio handed out a chart that showed who of the 15 select reviewers responded to the Committee request for review (Attachment 2). Chairman DeLuzio will prepare a reminder letter and send it to those who had not responded.

Mr. Visconti asked what happens to the comments. Moderator Bon Tempo is collecting all the responses, will evaluate them, and report their disposition to the Committee.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Submitted By:



Date: 9/12/23

Reno DeLuzio, Chairman

Attachment 1: Moderator's response to the May 9, 2023 Warrant Article 11 issue.

Attachment 2: Procedural Guide - Select Reviewers Response Status

7/11/23, 3:09 PM

Gmail - Annual Town Meeting 5/22/2023- Article 11



Brian Long <brianwilliamlong@gmail.com>

**Annual Town Meeting 5/22/2023- Article 11**

Michelangelo Bon Tempo <mbontempo@milfordma.gov>  
To: Brian Long <brianwilliamlong@gmail.com>  
Cc: Amy Neves <aneves@milfordma.gov>

Fri, Jun 9, 2023 at 9:40 AM

Dear Brian,

My apologies for not getting back to you sooner. I've been busy dealing with the renovation and rededication of the Hill Memorial Park at the Milford Town Library for the last couple of weeks.

I was aware of what transpired under Article 11 that evening. As to your concern. A motion was made when Atty. Moody submitted the written motion to Town Clerk Neves and me, which then appeared on the video screen for the assembly to see. Whether the presenter states the submitted motion orally or not is immaterial to the process. The fact is, at that moment, a motion was presented to the assembly and then Atty. Moody proceeded to address the merits of the motion.

Though the customary practice of our town meeting may be for an oral statement of the written motion by the presenter and restatement by the moderator, that custom has no real legal significance and is not necessary for a valid vote.

In fact, when the question was put to a vote, I restated the written motion to the assembly, which only reinforced the fact that a motion had indeed been submitted and made.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

**Michelangelo Bon Tempo**  
Moderator  
Town of Milford  
c/o Office of the Town Clerk  
52 Main Street (Room 12)  
Milford, MA 01757  
www.milfordma.gov  
mbontempo@milfordma.gov



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**From:** Brian Long <brianwilliamlong@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2023 10:02 AM  
**To:** Michelangelo Bon Tempo <mbontempo@milfordma.gov>  
**Cc:** Amy Neves <aneves@milfordma.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Annual Town Meeting 5/22/2023- Article 11

<b>Milford Town Meeting Procedural Guide</b>		
<b>Reviewers Response Status (6-21-23)</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Responded</b>
1	Brian Murray, Esq.	
2	Zachary Taylor, CGA	x
3	Amy Hennessy Neves	x
4	Richard A. Villani, Esq.	
5	Paul Mazzuchelli	x
6	Michael K. Walsh	
7	Thomas J. O'Loughlin, Esq.	x
8	Gerald M. Moody, Esq.	
9	Jane T. Casey	x
10	Douglas C. Rennie	x
11	Glenn D. Wiech	
12	Michelle Kinsella	
13	Stephanie P. Abisla	x
14	Donato F. Niro, Jr.	
15	Angelo A. Calagione, Esq.	x