

**TOWN MEETING STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
(TMSIC)**

**TOWN HALL
52 MAIN STREET
MILFORD, MA 01757**

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee was held on Monday, February 26, 2018, in Room 14 of the Town Hall. Renaldo A. DeLuzio being in the chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Present at the meeting were eight members of the committee: Renaldo A. DeLuzio (Chairman), Michelangelo Bon Tempo (Clerk), Dr. Richard A. Heller, Kathryn L. Mastroianni, Richard A. Morrison, Steven J. Trettel, Michael P. Visconti, Jr., and Andrea C. Wexler. Also present at the meeting were five applicants of the committee: Janet B. Carlin, Charles M. Clark, Sr., B. Gregory Johnson, Bartholomew R. Lawless and Michael A. Mancini.

Chairman DeLuzio informed the committee of the resignation of Vice-chairman John D. Edmondson. Mr. Edmondson's resignation letter was received and placed on file. The Chair further commented that he would contact Atty. Michael J. Noferi, Town Moderator, on filling the position with an applicant from Precinct 5 (the precinct that Mr. Edmondson represented).

Mr. Visconti moved to nominate Mr. Bon Tempo as Vice-chairman. Chairman DeLuzio stated that it would be in the committee's best interest to wait to nominate a new Vice-chairman until the next regularly scheduled meeting by which time the vacant member seat would be filled. By general consent the members agreed, and Mr. Visconti subsequently was allowed to withdraw the motion.

Chairman DeLuzio informed the committee that Ms. Wexler had been duly sworn in by Amy Neves, Town Clerk.

Chairman DeLuzio commended the applicants' presence and their willingness to serve on the numerous sub-committees to be formed under Item 4. To facilitate their continued engagement in the proceedings of the committee, the Chair recommended that applicants be given an opportunity to enter discussions on each agenda item only after the members had their say. By general consent the members eagerly endorsed the recommendation.

1. The minutes of the last meeting of January 19, 2018 were read and approved.
2. The report of the Chairman was received and placed on file.
3. For the placing of Articles in the Warrant for the May 14, 2018 Annual Town Meeting, Chairman DeLuzio informed the committee that he submitted "placeholders" for seven Articles for the Warrant. Gerald M. Moody, Town Counsel, advised the Chair that, according to Chapter 39, Section 9 of the General Laws, the Start Time Article could only apply to the Annual Town

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Meeting and that a Special Town Meeting start time is under the sole purview of the Board of Selectmen to adopt.

Three other proposed Articles were also deemed to be outside the authority of Town Meeting to enact.

According to Chapter 39, Section 9 of the General Laws, the setting of dates for any Town Meeting is under the sole purview of the Board of Selectmen to adopt.

According to Chapter 39, Section 10 of the General Laws, the consolidation of routine housekeeping articles under one Article and the consolidation of street acceptances under one Article are also under the sole purview of the Board of Selectmen to adopt. This is by virtue of the Selectmen's requirement to provide Town Meeting Warrants in a form of their choosing.

However, Mr. Moody did advise the Chair that the committee could petition the Board of Selectmen to adopt its recommendations regarding the above. By general consent the members agreed to send a petition to the Board of Selectmen that would recommend the adoption by policy of the following:

- a start time of 7:00 p.m. for Special Town Meetings
- the consolidation of street acceptance articles under a single Article in the warrant
- the consolidation of routine housekeeping authorizations under a single Article in the warrant
- the establishment of standard dates for the Annual Town Meeting and the October Special Town Meeting

Dr. Heller moved to submit the following Article for the Warrant.

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 1 of the General By-Laws of the Town by adding a new second paragraph thereto which paragraph shall read as follows: "The time set for the commencement of the Annual Town Meeting shall be 7:00 p.m.", or take any other action in relation thereto.

Mr. Visconti moved to amend by adding specific dates of the third Monday in May for the Annual Town Meeting and the third Monday in October for the Special Town Meeting.

The amendment to the motion was lost: 1 in favor to 7 opposed.

The motion as presented was carried: 6 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstained.

This article is based on the results of the Town Meeting Survey Final Report and Addendum Comments wherein a majority of Town Meeting members were in favor of an earlier start time of 7:00 p.m. for Town Meetings.

Chairman DeLuzio moved to submit the following Article for the Warrant.

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To see if the Town will vote to amend the Standing Votes of the Town Meeting by inserting the following entitled "Town Meeting End Time" as follows: "Debate on a motion introduced before 10:00 p.m. shall continue to the motion's disposition. No motion on any additional article shall be introduced after 10:00 p.m. without a majority vote of those present", or take any other action in relation thereto.

The motion was carried: 4 in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstained.

This article is based on the results of the Town Meeting Survey Final Report and Addendum Comments wherein a majority of Town Meeting members responded that Town Meetings were too long. It puts in place a provision that triggers an adjournment time of 10:00 p.m.

Chairman DeLuzio moved to submit the following Article for the Warrant.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Standing Votes of the Town Meeting by inserting the following vote entitled "Speaker Time" which shall provide as follows:

1. Except with the consent of two-thirds of the Town Meeting members present and voting, initial presentation of articles by sponsors shall not exceed 10 minutes in total, whether presented by one individual or several. A vote to extend a presentation will be for another 10-minute period.
2. Except with the consent of two-thirds of the Town Meeting members present and voting, no person addressing the Town Meeting for the first time on any article shall speak for more than 5 minutes, and subsequent statements or presentations by the same person shall not exceed 3 minutes each no exceed 3 in number.
3. A speaker's concise response to the question directed to him by or through the Moderator shall not be considered a speech for purposes of this standing vote.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Mr. Visconti moved to remove the motion from the list of Articles to include in the Warrant. After some discussion and by the general consent of the members, Mr. Visconti was allowed to withdraw the motion.

Dr. Heller questioned whether the consent should be by a simple majority rather than two-thirds. Chairman DeLuzio responded that he would seek the advice of Town Counsel Moody and amend if necessary.

The motion with the above stipulation was lost: 4 in favor to 4 opposed.

By general consent the members agreed to reconsider the motion.

The motion with the above stipulation was carried: 4 in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstained.

This article is based on the results of the Town Meeting Survey Final Report and Addendum Comments wherein a majority of Town Meeting members were in favor of an individual's speaking time

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in response to a presented motion being regulated per article. It would control the length of time a speaker could have for presenting or debating a motion.

Chairman DeLuzio moved to submit the following Article for the Warrant.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Standing Votes of the Town Meeting entitled "Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee" by striking the entry under "*Committee Vacancies*" and replacing such entry with the following:

When a position on the Committee becomes vacant for any reason, the Moderator shall appoint a new member in the following order until the requisite number of members is reached:

Re-appoint a member who has been re-elected and is still willing to serve.

From amongst those applicants who are on file with the Town Clerk and who are still willing to serve,

From the Town Meeting body

The Moderator shall appoint a member from each precinct where possible. The term of office shall be specified in Section (b) *Term of Office*.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Mr. Morrison moved to amend "Re-appoint a member who has been re-elected and is still willing to serve," by adding the phrase "for no more than two consecutive terms."

The amendment to the motion was carried: 6 in favor to 2 opposed.

The motion as amended was carried: 6 in favor to 2 opposed.

This article as amended would strike a balance between the need for the continuity of the committee's work by keeping a stable membership with a caveat to ensure that the membership does not become entrenched.

4. Chairman DeLuzio introduced the subject of survey topics and proposed assignments that were based on the responses given by the members and participating applicants of the committee. By general consent the members agreed to the proposed sub-committees and assignments, which were received and placed on file.

5. Chairman DeLuzio proposed "study and improvement ground rules" to be followed by the sub-committees working on the various assignments. By general consent the members agreed to the ground rules, which were received and placed on file.

6. There was no old business.

7. There was no new business.

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8. There were no additional comments from the applicants of the committee for, as previously stated, the Chair allowed them to enter discussions on all agenda items after the members had their say.

9. No invitation to speak was necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Michelangelo Bon Tempo
Clerk