

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

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

Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee was held on Friday, April 20, 2018, in Room 14 of the Town Hall. Renaldo A. DeLuzio being in the chair called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present at the meeting were six members of the Committee: Renaldo A. DeLuzio (Chairman), Michelangelo Bon Tempo (Clerk), Richard A. Heller, Bartholomew R. Lawless, Kathryn L. Mastroianni and Richard A. Morrison. Absent were three members of the Committee: Joanne Dillon, Steven J. Trettel and Andrea C. Wexler. One Participating Applicant to the Committee was present: Charles M. Clark, Sr. No one from the public was present.

Chairman DeLuzio announced the appointment of Mr. Lawless to the Committee by Atty. Michael J. Noferi, Town Moderator, as a replacement for Michael P. Visconti, Jr.

1. Chairman DeLuzio asked the Committee members to review a draft of the Annual Report of the Committee for the Town Meeting.

Dr. Heller moved to accept, place on file and give the Annual Report of the Committee to Town Meeting. Dr. Heller noticed that the Committee's vote on Article 8 had been omitted and, therefore, the Report was incomplete. Dr. Heller requested that the motion be withdrawn. By general consent the members agreed to the withdrawal of the motion.

Mr. Bon Tempo moved to lay the Annual Report of the Committee on the table.

The motion was carried unanimously.

2. Chairman DeLuzio presented a draft of an updated Application Form to the Committee. The updated Application Form emphasizes the rationale behind the policy adopted by the Committee of allowing applicants to participate in the initiative of studying and improving Town Meeting.

- to keep applicants up to date on Committee proceedings and thereby reduce the learning curve should they be called upon
- to provide another resource for new and innovative ideas

Gerald M. Moody, Town Counsel, advised the Chair that the Application Form could be included in the mailing for the Warrant.

Dr. Heller moved to accept, place on file and have the Application Form included in the mailing for the Warrant.

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The motion was carried unanimously.

3. In preparing the Annual Report, Chairman DeLuzio requested information from Mr. Bon Tempo on the Committee's vote on "Article 8 – Town Meeting End Time" taken at the February 26 meeting. A dialogue ensued that prompted a closer reading of the language of the article, which in turn, resulted in asking Atty. Noferi to render an opinion on Article 8.

Atty. Noferi thought the Article as worded would create more problems than it would solve. Of particular concern was the phrase "shall continue to the motion's disposition" and what is meant by disposing of an article, e.g., vote, laying on the table, moving the question.

Mr. Bon Tempo offered two other wordings for the by-law for Atty. Noferi's consideration.

- Without interrupting a speaker, a Town Meeting session shall (automatically) adjourn at 10:00 p.m., unless there is a majority vote of those present to continue the session.
- After 10:00 p.m., and in the absence of a majority vote of Town Meeting so permitting, no motion under any article other than the article then under debate may be made. (Amherst By-law)

Atty. Noferi opined that both suggestions may work, but that any such by-law would not be without potential problems.

Chairman DeLuzio took Atty. Noferi's cautionary opinion under advisement, but based upon

- the Town Meeting Survey Results – 71% Strongly/Somewhat Agree;
- the endorsement of the Board of Selectmen at their April 9, 2018 meeting;
- and the favorable recommendation of the Finance Committee at their April 11, 2018 meeting,

Chairman DeLuzio felt it was imperative for the Committee to place before Town Meeting an article that would end a Town Meeting session at a reasonable hour. With the above in mind, Chairman DeLuzio resolved that the best option would be to adopt the language of the Amherst By-law for the following reasons:

- the Amherst Town Meeting approved their By-law in November of 2016;
- the By-law has been approved by the Attorney General;
- the By-law has been used to good effect by the Amherst Town Meeting;
- and Chairman DeLuzio's e-mail correspondence with Amherst's Town Moderator.

Mr. Morrison moved to reconsider Article 8 – Town Meeting End Time.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Ms. Mastroianni moved to substitute the language of Article 8 from the February 26 meeting vote:

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To see if the Town will vote to add a new standing vote of the Milford Town Meeting by inserting a standing vote to be 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.

with the following language:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Standing Votes of the Milford Town Meeting by inserting a new standing vote to be entitled "Town Meeting End Time" as follows: "After 10:00 p.m., and in the absence of a majority vote of Town Meeting so permitting, no motion under any article other than the article then under debate may be made", or take any other action in relation thereto.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Since no more changes can be made to the Warrant, Chairman DeLuzio will have Atty. Moody prepare the Town Meeting motion to reflect the substitution. In addition, Chairman DeLuzio and Mr. Bon Tempo will meet with Atty. Noferi to discuss how to explain to Town Meeting members the procedural and practical mechanics of this proposed by-law.

Ms. Mastroianni moved to take the Annual Report of the Committee from the table.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Heller moved to add the Committee vote on Article 8 to the Report.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Heller moved to accept, place on file, and give the Annual Report of the Committee to Town Meeting.

The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Mr. Clark, a Participating Applicant, declined the invitation to speak.

5. No one from the public was present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Michelangelo Bon Tempo
Clerk