

TOWN MEETING STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
(TMSIC)

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee was held on Monday, May 18, 2023. Renaldo A. Deluzio being the chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

James Wheelock (11 Cunniff Ave., Milford MA) was present.

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

Invitation to Speak: Mr. Wheelock was recognized.

Mr. Wheelock spoke on an issue that occurred at the November 14, 2022 town meeting wherein a motion was made to move the question right after the article sponsor made his remarks and therefor cutting off debate. He thought that was extremely unfortunate. Also, there was no second to the motion. He provided an excerpt from Town Meeting Times relating to this issue which advised the moderator to restrain from allowing moving the question for Town Meetings who impose speaking time limits.

Mr. Wheelock noted that he had reached out to the moderator who advised him to submit his concerns in writing via email. Mr. Wheelock felt the subject of the inconsistency between moving the question and speaking time limits is complicated and requires discussion with the moderator, not via email exchanges. Chairman DeLuzio advised Mr. Wheelock that Milford's Town Meeting is not bound by Town Meeting Times. It is one of many sources and several customs that formulate the conduct of Milford's Town Meeting. Chairman DeLuzio took the action item to convey Mr. Wheelock's concerns to the moderator.

1. TMSIC Annual Report for the May 22, 2023 Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Report was mailed to Town Meeting Members with the Warrant in April. As was done in the past, Chairman DeLuzio will limit his remarks to highlights, any progress since April and the Committee's future. (Attached). By consensus, the Committee approved the Chairman's proposed remarks.

Chairman Deluzio presented an invoice for printing 25 copies of the Town Meeting Procedural Guide Draft booklet in the amount of \$271.62. Motion made by Dr. Richard Heller, seconded by Brian Long to approve payment. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Deluzio handed out copies of the Town Meeting Procedural Guide to the Committee for their files and submit comments if they choose to do so.

Brian Long would like to see Mr. Wheelock's question on the time limits and discussion be on an agenda at some time. Dr. Heller noted that that in some instances a second to the motion is not needed.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 9/12/23

Christine Crean

Christine Crean

Attachment: Chairman DeLuzio's remarks for the May 22, 2023 Town Meeting (Draft) -2

Reno's remarks at the May 22, 2023 Town Meeting (Draft)-2

I am not going to spend my time summarizing the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee's Annual report that was mailed to you with the warrant.

However, the Committee has continued to make progress in two areas:

- The Milford Town Meeting Member Survey 2023 is ready to be sent out once we receive authorization from individual Town Meeting Members to use their email address for this purpose.
- Email Authorization request forms were sent by the IT Dept. to all Town Meeting Members who have their email address on file, on May 18th. Email Authorization request forms will be US mailed to those who do not have their email address on file over the next couple of weeks. Be on the lookout for these forms. We ask for your prompt response.
- The Town Meeting Procedural Guide draft was sent to a 15 member select group of reviewers comprised of eight Town Officials and seven Town Meeting members (4 new or recently re-elected and 3 experienced) for comment on May 18th.
- Now, I will just like a few more minutes to focus on the last topic – **The Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee's Future.**

The Committee is now at an inflection point where it must decide over the coming months, to continue or request you dissolve the Committee. As noted in the report, Town Meeting Member participation has not met expectations. In addition, four members' terms, including mine, will expire in 2024. No member of the Committee has expressed the desire to be Chair.

Participation can be as a Committee member, a Participating Applicant, or a Consultant Volunteer, which does not require submitting an application.

Application Forms can be found on the Town Website under Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee.

The Committee's future and its initiatives as cited in the report rests entirely with you. Without more participation it will not be able to continue. Keep in mind that this is the only committee established for your benefit. It is my hope that enough of you will respond to avoid dissolving the Committee. I am sure your time and talents would be appreciated by your fellow Town Meeting Members.

I leave you with the following for now:

Ask yourself if you value your Committee's mission to improve town meeting. If you do, it is now time for you to participate.