



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2023

Members: Judy Bickford*, Don McDowell, Laura Streets, Travis Sabatase

Absent: Vacant Seat

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Jason Luneau, Police Chief; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Mitzi Fleming*, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: John Meyer, Tom Cloutier, Anah Witt, Tony Cote, Martin Green, Laura Green, Joshua Goldstein, Sheila Tarbox, Dave Campbell, Eugene Dambach, Kathy Chaffee*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Judy Bickford called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30PM at the Tegu Building.
Don McDowell will chair this meeting.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss adding Jersey Heights sidewalk article to the April 18th Special Town Meeting warning.

Article 5 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warning was incorrectly warned as funding a sidewalk project in Jersey 'Way' but in actuality, the project is in Jersey 'Heights'. Following legal advice received in February to correct the mistake, the Selectboard published their decision to take the following action to resolve the matter: *"All votes cast for or against Article 5 on the Australian ballot were disregarded. Furthermore, Article 5 with the corrected street name, will be brought to the voters for consideration at the special floor meeting scheduled for April 18, 2023."*

On March 9, 2023 when approving the Special Town Meeting Warning of April 18, 2023, the Selectboard voted to leave the corrected sidewalk article off of the warning due to legal advice received in March to focus just on a revised budget and the received petition to move voting to Australian ballot. After receiving public requests, the Selectboard called this special meeting to reconsider that decision. Planning Council member Josh Goldstein shared his desire to have the Jersey Heights sidewalk article added back to the April 18th Special Town Meeting warning as previously advertised. Josh along with the Planning Council have worked on this project for many years and are passionate about getting it to the voters to make a decision this spring. There were several folks in attendance that spoke in favor of placing this article on April 18th warning for a floor vote. There were

also several people that spoke against adding it to the warning. The concern voiced by the folks that did not want it in the warning for April 18th was that very few people would be at the meeting to vote on this item as it is a floor meeting. They requested it be placed on an Australian ballot as it was originally warned to allow for more voter participation. Town Clerk Sara Haskins explained that at this moment the town does not have the authority to vote on budget articles or public questions by Australian ballot only by floor vote. She further explained that H.42 allowed the Selectboard to warn the 2023 Annual Meeting as Australian ballot but it only applies to annual meetings and not special meetings. In anticipation of this question, she received legal advice that this article would have to be voted on the floor as the nature of changing the wording to a different street makes it a new article and only 2023 annual meeting articles that are up for reconsideration can be revoted by Australian ballot.

Motion made by Laura Streets to add the sidewalk article as presented to the agenda for the April 18th Special Town Meeting Warning. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (3/1). Laura Streets, Nay.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Judy Bickford to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 5:58pm

Submitted and filed this March 17, 2023 .

Judi Alberi, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.