

**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**May 5, 2016**  
**Town Hall, Sturbridge, MA**

**Call to Order:**

Chair called to order at 7:00pm with the following committee members present: Chair, Kathleen Neal (KN), Kevin Smith (KS), Joni Light (JL), James Waddick (JW), Suzanne Smiley (SS), and Michael Serio (MS).

Absent: Laurance Morrison

The committee engaged in discussion of revisions to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. KN told the committee that Leon Gaumond (not present) asked the committee to track their changes to the warrant.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles (document “ATM WARRANT 6-6-2016 reconciled on 5-5-16.doc”)**

**Article 26 – Town Barn Field Project**

There is discussion over the use of “regulation” in the summary box for Article 26 – Town Barn Fields, as the proposed fields would be regulation sized for Little League baseball and U12 soccer.

KS, JL, KN and MS discuss the logistics of the Board of Selectman vote on as it pertained to Article 26. KS stated that a vote to support the article resulting 2-2-1 results in no recommendation. MS sees the historical value of keeping the numbers in the motion to show that they were divided even in the case that it was defeated. KN believes the language “vote to support” is misleading and that it should be left “as voted”. JL agrees with KS that the vote result is no recommendation.

**Article 31 – Zoning Bylaw Telecommunications**

KN states that Jean Bubon, Town Planner, submitted comments on amendments made to Article 31 – Telecommunications. KS wants to change the language “hereinafter” to “also referred to as ‘facility’”. KN feels we should rely on Jean Bubon's advice on the amendments, referring to the language change omitting “new” and changing “publish a legal notice” back to the original intended language that was misspelled: “publicity to “publicly”.

KS and JW believe in section 12.08 “the Town” should be changed to the “Town Administrator”. MS and JL agree that if mail is addressed to the town of Sturbridge, there must be someone responsible for routing it to its proper location.

*KS moves the motion to reconsider Article 31 – Zoning Bylaws - Telecommunications, MS seconds, 6-0-0.*

*KS moves the motion to keep the amendments in Section 12.08; to add the words “also referred to as facility”, In Section 12.03 Use Regulations, Section (h), to add the phrase “from grade” after the words “130 feet in Height” and to omit all other proposed amendments from the previous motion, SS seconds, motion passes 6-0-0.*

### **Article 34 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaws**

*KS moved the motion to reconsider Article 34 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaws, JW seconds, motion passes 6-0-0.*

*KS moved the motion to approve the Article 34 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaws as written, SS seconds, motion passes 6-0-0.*

### **Article 36 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaws**

The committee discusses Jean Bubon's recommendations to keep the original language in the Preamble of the article because it is consistent with bylaws. KN feels that if the amendments were not put forth in the public hearing or if they are consistent with bylaws, the language should be kept consistent. Mass General Law 40A section 5, no amendment of the general bylaw shall be proposed unless the change is published and allowed for discussion at the public hearing. KS supports keeping all amendments proposed to ensure that all concerns are noted. MS states that if we are out of scope our motion goes away, and wonders if we should check with the Town Moderator. KN feels that KS may be overstepping legally. KS states that his vote will not change, and that he is more concerned with the limiting language of “dramatic” and wants to keep the amendment with “live performance”.

*KN moves the motion to reconsider defeated 1-4-1. (MS abstaining) Motion defeated.*

### **Article 37 – Amendment to Zoning Bylaws – False Alarms**

Note present on the working copy of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant notifies the committee that there are conflicting bylaws concerning Article 37 and that Leon Gaumond requested to have the committee vote “no action” until a consolidated bylaw is compiled.

*JL moved the motion to reconsider Article 37 – Amendment to General Bylaws – False Alarms, KS seconds, motion passed 6-0-0.*

*KS moved the motion to take no action Article 37 – Amendment to General Bylaws – False Alarms, JW seconds, motion passed 6-0-0.*

The committee discusses the language in the Finance Committee summary box on **Article 45 – Petitioned Article – Exhibition Hall** and the implications concerning degradation of historical value due to the modification of a historic building.

KS received a correspondence from Leon Gaumond stating that the vote of the Tantasqua School Committee should be removed from the warrant.

### **Special Town Meeting Warrant**

The committee formats and discusses summary boxes.

## **Report of the Finance Committee**

The committee discusses delegation of proposals to change policy or to address budgeting and warrant issues that came to the committee's attention during the FY17 budget and ATM and STM process. Topics include the Article 26 - Town Barn Field Project and grounds preparation/ledge removal issues, policy proposals for invasive species control, private or abandoned road drainage maintenance and the responsibilities of the economic development coordinator.

## **New Business**

SS stated that she is taken aback by “Sturbridge gets a Facebook page of its own”, and wonders how this would be governed or monitored. KN states it is not an official Sturbridge town page. Police and Fire has their own Facebook page. JL and KN stated that is a community Facebook, not an official town website. SS and KS discuss the possibilities of promoting the town within the social media venue.

## **No Old Business, No Public Access**

*KS moves the motion to adjourn, MS seconds, motion passes 6-0-0 at 9:34pm.*