

TOWN MEETING STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE  
(TMSIC)

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee was held on Monday, May 18, 2022. Renaldo DeLuzio being in the chair called the Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Committee members Charles M. Clark, Sr., Renaldo A. Deluzio, Dr. Richard A. Heller, Michael Visconti, Jose M. Morais, Christine Crean, Gregory Johnson, and Brian Long. Michelangelo Bon Tempo, Consultant Volunteer was also present.

Chairman DeLuzio announced the meeting was being voice recorded and asked if there was any objection. No one objected.

**1. The May 4, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as corrected.**

**2. Invitation to Speak: No one requested to speak.**

Chairman DeLuzio requested taking up Item 4 ahead of item 3 because the Committee's decision on Item 4 will impact Item 3. Hearing no objection, Item 4 was taken up first.

**4. Town Meeting Statement re Forum**

Chairman DeLuzio handed out a draft statement to be presented at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Morais commented that the statement not only noted that the Forum program would be ending, it suggests the alternative of providing more opportunity to ask questions at Town meeting.

Mr. Long noted that considering the very low response rates from Town Meeting Members to the Committee's requests to submit articles for the May 17, 2022 forum and the significant amount of work that goes into organizing the forum, it is time to decide whether or not to continue with the forum.

Chairman DeLuzio pointed out that 90% of the effort in organizing the forum is getting to the point where the Committee receives responses to request for Articles and then has to decide whether or not to proceed. Chairman DeLuzio also pointed out that to call upon Town Department resources required to support the forum with such low participation rates is not justifiable.

It was moved to accept the statement as presented by the Chairman. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Long then made a motion to present an Article for the Oct. 2022 Special Town Meeting to delete Organizing Pre-Town Meeting Forums from the TMSIC Standing Vote Duties. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman DeLuzio also reported on a conversation he had with Mr. Villani who inquired if the Committee would defer reading its annual report at Town meeting to save time. Chairman DeLuzio responded that he was not planning to present a summary of the Committee's Annual Report but would present a statement regarding the Pre-Town Meeting Forum of about 3 minutes long. Chairman DeLuzio agreed to bring his request to the Committee for consideration.

By consensus, the Committee agreed it was important to read the statement.

Chairman DeLuzio reported that he had to adjust the May 17<sup>th</sup> forum participation data sheet to reflect only Town Meeting members and not Members at Large to make it consistent with the previous years' data. This minor adjustment resulted in 1% change to the final percentage participation calculations as previously presented to the Committee.

### **3. Town Meeting Member Survey 2022**

Chairman DeLuzio handed out Survey Leaner 1, Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Part 1: Designated changes from the last reviews were discussed. As a result of the decisions made in Agenda Item 4, questions 7, 8, and 9 relating to the Pre-Town Meeting Forum would now be deleted. The only question that would remain --- "What are your reasons for not participating in Pre-Town Meeting Forums?"

Part 2: As a result of the decisions made in Agenda Item 4 questions 1, 2, and 3 relating to the Pre-Town Meeting Forum would now be deleted.

Regarding the topic "Asking Question at Town Meeting", Mr. Bon Tempo advised that questions should not be debating questions. They should be questions seeking information. Mr. Bon Tempo was also going to check on whether or not questions could be addressed to an individual.

Part 3: Question 9 regarding the number of days the Warrant information packet should be made available on the town website.

Chairman DeLuzio commented that if Mr. Villani's Town Meeting Time Line Schedule was adhered to, the Warrant could be posted on the Town Website 41 days prior to Town Meeting. He noted that to expect all information listed in question 9 to be available at that time is unreasonable. Chairman DeLuzio recommended the question be changed from "when the Warrant is posted" to "at least 14 days prior to Town Meeting". By consensus, the Committee agreed.

Mr. Visconti recommended the number of days be specified as calendar days. The Chairman will incorporate the recommendation.

Articles that present changes from "Current" to "Proposed":

Chairman DeLuzio handed out an example of three categories of articles: financial, zoning, and text. The examples illustrated how they should be presented. No other examples were offered. By consensus, the Committee approved the examples for inclusion in the Survey. They will be accessible via a link to the TMSIC's webpage.

Chairman DeLuzio needs to work with IT to develop a tab on the TMSIC webpage to post these examples.

Question 2 regarding taking up only capital articles at the October Special Town Meeting—the link to the Capital Plan was tested and it works.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by:     *R.D.*     Reno DeLuzio, Chairman

Date: 6/14/22