

TMMA Executive Committee Minutes: January 10, 2007

Attendance:

TMMA Officers:

Gloria Bloom – (Chair Pct 4)
David Horton – (Vice Chair Pct 8)
Darwin Adams – (Clerk Pct 3)
David L. Kaufman – (Communication Officer Pct 6)

Precinct Officers:

Pct 9: Vicki Blier
Pct 8: Jim Osten
Pct 7: Jim Courtemanche
Pct 6: Edith Sandy, Alan Lazarus
Pct 5: Andy Friedlich
Pct 4: John S. Rosenberg
Pct 3: Alex Nedzel

Agenda:

Gloria called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm in the Legion Room of Cary Hall.

Minutes of the November 8, 2006 Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously. Balance was \$3929.96 with \$296.00 going to Wales Copy Center for the Informational Booklet for the fall special Town Meeting.

TMMA Information Meetings:

Gloria opened the discussion of when information meetings should be scheduled for the spring 2007 Town Meeting. Some effort was spent to avoid conflicts with Margery Battin's meetings for new Town Meeting members. A tentative schedule emerged. Gloria will verify dates and post them to the TMMA email list.

- Wednesday, March 14, 2007 – Citizens' articles and the Planning Board articles
- Sunday, March 18, 2007 – Bus tour
- Tuesday, March 20, 2007 – Municipal Budget
- Wednesday, March 21, 2007 – School Budget

Nominating Committee:

Gloria asked for volunteers to nominate TMMA officers for 2007. Andy Friedlich, David Horton, and Vicki Blier volunteered. The committee was approved unanimously.

Warrant Article Writeups:

Gloria presented a preliminary list of warrant articles and asked for volunteers to create write-ups for the Information Booklet. The deadline for write-ups was given as Saturday, March 3, 2007.

Vicki Blier asked if we could post the booklet on the TMMA email list rather than create printed copies. The advantage would be less cost and time spent with the printing process. In addition, the booklet could be kept current via periodic updates. Andy Friedlich expressed a strong preference for the printed format. John Rosenberg suggested that a URL for the online information be printed on the cover of the booklet. In this way, the printed booklet would point to the website location for more current information.

Alan Lazarus noted that Minuteman Tech has a copying service that does a great job at a very low cost. Perhaps we could use this service to reduce costs.

The following people volunteered to write up warrant articles based upon the preliminary list – keeping in mind that they might need changing when the final list is available:

David L Kaufman – Town Clerk article(s) and some Capital Projects (list is not complete yet).

Edith Sandy and Jim Courtemanche – Community Preservation Committee recommendations

Andy Friedlich – Municipal budget and related articles

Alan Lazarus – School Budget (or part thereof)

Vicki Blier – Tree bylaw and long term contracts

Jim Osten – Planning Board and School special education transportation articles

David Horton – Income limits relating to property tax deferrals and merger of town-school facilities management.

Andy Friedlich suggested that the February TMMA Executive Committee meeting be held on the first rather than the second Wednesday of the month. This would provide more time for article write-ups.

2020 Vision Committee:

Gloria asked for volunteers to act as a TMMA Executive Committee representative on the 2020 Vision Committee. None were forthcoming.

30 Year TMMA Service Award Pins:

Andy volunteered to contact Robert Rotberg for a list of eligible TMMA members. Gloria suggested that TMMA should purchase a few more award pins. They cost approximately \$20 each.

Budget Books:

We discussed various formats for presenting the Municipal Budget. The “Blue” book (this is the complete and formal Town budget) is expensive to print and is often not ready in time for Town Meeting members to review adequately. Last year we relied on a “Brown” book which contained preliminary budget information. There were several suggestions that the “Blue” book circulation should be limited in some way – perhaps by requiring Town Meeting members to specifically request a copy. Reference copies would, of course, always be available at the Town offices and Cary Library. Many suggested that the “Brown” book summary format was preferable to the “Blue” book because it provided good summaries rather than pages of lists. We agreed to investigate the idea of limited printing of the “Blue” book and to assure that the Town website keeps current budget information online.

Calling the Question:

At the Fall Town Meeting, some members “called the question” before all people wishing to speak on an issue had voiced their views. Some members suggested that his practice should be discouraged. Gloria asked the Executive Committee to comment. The discussion included:

- Calling the question is proper conduct under our Town Meeting rules
- The members have the opportunity to vote on the motion. If the majority wishes to continue debate, the debate will continue.
- Some members often dominate the debate. If they would be brief in their comments, the question might not be called as often.

The TMMA Executive Committee agreed that no actions were warranted.

Format for TMMA Information Meetings:

Vicki Blier summarized last year’s Information Meeting format. A discussion then ensued regarding the format for our next Information meeting.

Most enjoyed having Alessandro Alessandrini playing quiet piano music when the time for a presentation was nearing its end. Apparently Alessandro had mixed feelings about this practice.

Most felt that the “short format” used last year was good. In this format, time for formal presentations was restricted providing more time for questions and answers. We agreed that we should notify all presenters and TMMA members that we would use the “short format” this year. The notification is important so that attendees can plan properly.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.