

## **TMMA Executive Committee Minutes: June 13, 2007**

### **Attendance:**

#### **TMMA Officers:**

Edith Sandy – (Chair Pct 6)  
Darwin Adams – (Vice Chair Pct 3)  
Alessandro Alessandrini – (Treasurer Pct 2)  
Jim Osten – (Clerk Pct 8)

#### **Precinct Officers and Members:**

Pct 1: Jonathan Cole, Joel Adler, Nancy Adler, John Bartenstein  
Pct 2:  
Pct 3: Glenn Parker, Tom Diaz  
Pct 4: Margaret Heitz, John Rosenberg, Ruth Thomas, Gloria Bloom  
Pct 5: Andy Friedlich, Eph Weiss  
Pct 6: Frank Sandy  
Pct 7:  
Pct 8: David Horton  
Pct 9: Francine Stiglitz, Nahrain Bhatia  
At Large: Norm Cohen, Jeanne Krieger, Hank Manz  
Guests: Deborah Jackson, Jill Smilow (experts in conflict resolution)

### **Agenda:**

Edith called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the Legion Room in Cary Hall.

### **Minutes of the May 9, 2007 Meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously. Balance was \$2506.44.

A motion to approve the expenditure of \$50 as a reimbursement to Edith Sandy for a gift to Dan McKenzie who moderated the TMMA information session on the override was approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the donation of \$50 each, \$100 total, in the memory of Paul Hamburger and Marshall Derby was approved unanimously.

A motion to not repoll the membership on starting time for Town Meeting and to affirm the objective of starting and ending Town Meeting sessions at the designated times was approved unanimously.

### **Discussion of One Lexington Dialogue**

Nahrain Bhatia and Margaret Heitz presented a proposal for the TMMA to sponsor a facilitated dialogue among a diverse group of Lexingtonians.

The objectives of One Lexington Dialogue are to: (1) remedy the status quo of a deteriorating dialogue, (2) ratchet down distrust, and (3) to encourage citizens to serve on town committees.

A facilitated dialogue would involve 5 to 7 meetings of a diverse group of 10 with two trained facilitators. Several such groups would be created and professional staff would be used to train the facilitators. This process has been used in Lexington by Temple Isaiah and Grace Chapel. Also, a roundtable on affordable housing is being held by the Planning Board.

Nahrain and Margaret presented the results of two earlier meetings of an informal group. The minutes of these meetings (June 6 and June 11) were passed out and will be made available on the Town website. Attendees at the informal meetings included Nahrain Bhatia, Margaret Heitz, Richard Pagett, Andy Freidlich, Edith Sandy, Deborah Jackson, and Jill Smilow.

Edith Sandy asked the meeting if (1) this is appropriate for TMMA and (2) if so, should the facilitated dialogue be conducted with Town Meeting Members. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ephraim Weiss suggested an alternative in which TMMA would examine the email traffic on the TMMA list during the override campaign and identify the 10 top users and encourage them to engage in facilitated dialogue.

John Rosenberg suggested that there was a high risk of failure of this effort since the discussion could turn from low stakes topics to high stakes topics.

A motion that a facilitated dialogue is a good idea to pursue and that those who have begun this process to continue was approved by a majority with one abstention.

The following volunteered to assist the One Lexington Dialogue: Nancy Adler, Glenn Parker, Deb Jackson (professional in conflict resolution) and Jill Smilow (professional in conflict resolution).

A note on the One Lexington Dialogue will be prepared and distributed to the TMMA list.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.