

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes for May 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

Attendees:	Precinct	Attendees:	Precinct
Vineeta Kumar	3	Jenny Richlin*	4
Betty Gau	8	Andy Friedlich*	5
Bridger McGaw	6	Sarah Higginbotham*	5
Brielle Meade	8	Salvador Jaramillo*	5
Vicki Blier	9	Innessa Manning*	6
Bob Avallone	8	Vinita Verma*	6
Valerie Overton*	1	Jyotsna Kakullavarapu*	6
Larry Freeman*	1	Samita Mandelia*	7
Noah Michelson*	1	Pamela Tames*	7
Avram Baskin*	2	Yu Wu*	8
Emilie Webster*	2	Tom Shiple*	9
David Kaufman*	3	Kimberly Hensle Lowrance*	9
Cindy Arens*	3	Sunny Chandra	8
Ruth Thomas*	4		

*denotes Precinct Officers

The Chair Vineeta Kumar called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM as quorum was confirmed.

- I. Chair's Report—Vineeta Kumar welcomed everyone to the first meeting with new members for the year. Vineeta shared a picture of Ben Moroze with his gift (photograph) for serving as Chair. Vineeta shared the living list of agenda topics for future TMMA meetings and she will compile any suggested topics from members in this file.
- II. Clerk's Report—Brielle Meade submitted the Draft Minutes for the February 10, 2021 meeting for approval. After one addition, the minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report—Bridger McGaw reported that there was \$1,401 collected in dues and there was \$270 in expenses since the last report. The current balance is \$4,238.43. Approximately 70 percent of TM members have paid dues this year. The Treasurer's Report (found on page 4 below) was moved, seconded and unanimously accepted.
 - Andy Friedlich moved we inform at-large members they need not pay dues given the time and commitment they make. The motion was unanimously accepted. (At-large members who want to contribute anyway still can.)
- IV. Webmaster Report—Bob Avallone gave an overview of what is involved with TMMA Webmaster duties. The bulk of the annual recurring work is updating members' information and pictures and linking to the main Town of Lexington for other information.
 - Linking to the Town website: Vicki Blier mentioned she asks Sean Dugan for permalinks for anything she needs to link to on the Town site, to ensure that links on the TMMA website are never broken. Bob requests that if people do find broken links on the website that they let him know so he can update them.
 - Member photographs: Bob reiterated his annual request that folks send pictures of themselves for posting on the website. Sarah Higginbotham suggested we could visit

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people who have not submitted a picture and offer to take a picture of them in front of their house. Avram Baskin was concerned about privacy issues related to this. Vicki Blier moved that Sarah Higginbotham try the idea in Precinct 5 and if successful, TMMA could expand it to all Precincts if appropriate. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- V. Email List Moderator Report—Vicki Blier reported on the status of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) review; she wanted to wait until after Town Meeting and will be in touch with the folks who volunteered to help with this shortly.
- VI. Review of TMMA Bylaws –
- Vineeta Kumar would like to form a committee to review the bylaws and suggest changes. Andy Friedlich suggested that the section on roles of committee members needs the most review and updates, including some changes to the duties of each role (e.g., collecting dues is currently a duty of the Clerk, but should be updated to a duty of the Chair).
 - Andy Friedlich, Tom Shiple, Avram Baskin, Ruth Thomas, and Salvador Jamarillo volunteered to be on the committee. Vicki Blier suggested that John Bartenstein also be included (John is a lawyer and had a hand in drafting the bylaws).
 - Avram Baskin highlighted that given the Town’s focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, TMMA should also keep a focus on these issues if and where appropriate in updates to the bylaws.
 - The committee will work on a plan and timeline for making updates to the bylaws. If anyone has ideas or suggestions for updates, send your comments to the Executive Committee.
- VII. TMMA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Training – Vineeta Kumar would like to establish DEI training in line with Article 8 that TM recently passed. She suggested that a committee be formed to begin planning.
- There was discussion on the many forms that this DEI training could take and possible topics. Some ideas included:
 - i. Mirroring the training for managers that the Town conducted using All Aces.
 - ii. Conduct annual recurring training since DEI issues change constantly over time.
 - iii. Potentially include the training as part of the orientation for new TM members.
 - iv. Training that can be recorded so that it can be reused.
 - v. Focus the training on how examine local issues/items up for vote through a diversity lens.
 - Costs – TMMA has a healthy budget and it was generally agreed that TMMA should pay for professional training. Valerie Overton, who is herself a professional trainer, indicated that costs vary hugely across the training industry, as do the offerings for types of training and topics to cover. TMMA needs to think first about what type of training we are interested in (format, mode, length, etc.) to narrow in on what we are looking for.

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- David Kaufman was concerned that since the training would be voluntary, it may only reach TM members already inclined to consider DEI issues and not reach the TM members who would benefit the most.
 - A motion was made to form a committee to draft a proposal with DEI training objectives, suggested options, and details for how to proceed. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Valerie Overton, Larry Freeman, Vineeta Kumar, Sarah Higginbotham, and Avram Baskin volunteered to be on the committee.
- VIII. High School Building Project – Discussion with School Committee Chair Kathleen Lenihan – Kathleen reiterated that she posted a link to the School Committee meeting from April 27 and that the video provides a lot of insight and recommends that TM members view the video.
- Ms. Lenihan provided a summary of the process for the High School project: Lexington submitted the Statement of Interest (SOI) last year, but was not invited into the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) program this year. Lexington will submit the SOI again in the very near future. Feedback received indicates that the SOI is great and needs no changes; Lexington was not accepted because it is simply a very competitive process. For this submittal, Lexington will hear back in December (as opposed to May of next year) whether we are invited into the program or not; the timeline for last year was pushed back to May because of the pandemic.
 - The number of projects MSBA funds each year depends on how much money is in the “pot.” There is no “line” for projects – if your Town was on the cusp of being accepted this year but was not, it does not mean you have a better chance next year; the process starts anew each year. Some towns wait to build until they get in to the MSBA program; some towns move forward on their projects without getting in to the MSBA program.
 - In budget scenarios and regarding Town tax implications, the Town is currently using \$350 million as the placeholder cost of the project. Kathleen believes this is very conservative and that a \$400 million project is closer to the reality Lexington will be facing.
- IX. Fall TMMA Connect! Event – Betty Gau suggested we form a committee to determine a topic and propose options for the next TMMA Connect! event. The group agreed that part of the value of the TMMA Connect! event is that it is conducted in person; therefore, the group agreed to revisit this agenda item in the Fall when it may be clearer if in-person events will be occurring.
- X. Other Business—Andy Friedlich mentioned that Carolyn Kowalski made a presentation about establishing an Affordable Housing Trust and Affordable Housing Corporation. This will change Town Meeting’s involvement and influence on affordable housing, so it may be of interest for everyone to keep apprised of any developments with this. There will be a summit meeting on this in late May that could be of interest to TM members.
- XI. Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM. Next Meeting will be on June 9, 2021 at 7:30 PM conducted online via Zoom.

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TMMA			
Treasurer's report			
12-May-21			
Cash Balance - beginning (3/15/2021)			\$3,107.43
Income			
TMMA Dues	\$1,401.00		
Total Income		\$1,401.00	
Expenses			
Check	\$270.00		
Total Expenses		\$270.00	
Income less expenses			\$1,396.00
Cash Balance - ending (05/10/2021)			\$4,238.43