

Minutes July 20,2023
Committee of Precinct Chairs
Great Hall, Plymouth Town Hall
Remote participation by Zoom Meeting
7 PM

Present:

Precinct 1 Chris Pratt Remote
Precinct 2 Matthew Tavares, Vice Chair
Precinct 3 Dale Webber
Precinct 4 Clare Montanari
Precinct 5 Kevin Lynch
Precinct 6 Bill Arienti
Precinct 7 David Golden Remote
Precinct 8 Don Williams
Precinct 9 Kathryn M Holmes, Chair
Precinct 10 Alan Costello Remote
Precinct 11 Frank O'Brien Remote
Precinct 12 Pat Adelman, Clerk
Precinct 13 Susan Wentworth
Precinct 14 Thomas Begley
Precinct 15 Wrestling Brewster
Precinct 16 Pompey Delafield
Precinct 17 Joe Hutchinson
Precinct 18 Carmen Lifrieri

Materials distributed for the meeting:

Agenda, Building inventory, Town Properties, Graffiti and Litter Bylaw, Graffiti Removal Request Form, Voter Turn Out Report. Voter Precincts,

Meeting called to order at 7 PM

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken. Kevin Lynch was in the audience and later joined for Precinct 5.

Precinct 18 Chair Carmen Lifrieri joined after the conclusion of Precinct 18 caucus.

Town Properties and Buildings

Town Manager Derek Brindisi discussed facilities and properties that the Town owns. The town will evaluate all properties to determine what to keep or sell. Don Williams commented that land is more valuable than buildings. Sell buildings that require maintenance rather than land.

Kevin Canty mentioned that we can't sell our way out of maintenance. School and Town should consolidate.

Bill Arienti asked how many buildings are not in use and is any building not fit for human habitation? Mr. Canty answered the old Station 7 and the water barn were in bad shape.

Wrestling Brewster asked where is the evaluation of properties on the select board priority list?

Pompey Delafield wants a list of what is in bad condition and what is in good condition.

Kathryn asked what is the status of the 1,000 acres and other properties. Town Meeting members need to know. It is an enormous amount of work. She suggested hiring consultation.

Mr. Brindisi said that Mass Fish and Games is interested in the 1,000 acres for conservation.

Bill Arienti spoke of a woman in Worcester who lost her house for non payment of taxes and all proceeds of sale went to the city. Bill would like legislation to prevent that from happening in Plymouth.

Mr. Serkey said the courts made a judgement that would prevent that from happening now.

Mr. Serkey recommended involving abutters or other interested parties when the town takes property for taxes.

Dale Webber warns against selling the airport. It brings a lot of services and revenue to town. The history of success outweighs the temporary lull in revenues, similar with the crematory.

Voter Turnout

Kathryn warned that we cannot use emails. If you want something on the agenda send it to Kathryn.

George McKay presented on Plymouth Voter Turn Out.

Kelly McElreath, Town Clerk, spoke about mail in ballots, about 8,000 expected for 2024 elections. Great opportunity to inform those voters about local elections.

Kelly was asked if mail in ballots increased voter turn out. Kelly answered that early voting gave more options to those who always vote anyway. The data on mail in voting is not complete.

Pompey Delafield asked about poor mail service and if online voting is possible. Kelly said voting online is not available but someone can apply for a mail in ballot online.

Deb Etzel from the Plymouth Area League of Women Voters asked for help from the Precinct Chairs to find non-voters and ask what keeps them from voting.

George McKay wants the Town to set a road map to set goal of 20% voter turn out and keep increasing the expectation.

Kelly announced the Fall Town Meeting is Oct.15, 2023, which was later corrected to Oct. 21, 2023. August 11, 2023 at noon is the deadline for Town Meeting Articles.

Most town meeting member vacancies are filled. The town meeting member who moved out of precinct can serve until after Fall town meeting. The town meeting member list will be updated.

Kathryn congratulated and welcomed new Precinct 18 Chair, Carmen LiFrieri

Charter Review Committee Update

Pompey reported that a committee of three: Steve Trifletti, Harry Helm, and himself, appointed a Charter Review Committee of nine with two alternates.

The CRC will meet on Monday,

July 24,2023. Joe Hutchinson, Alan Costello, and David Golden are Precinct Chairs on the CRC

Kathryn congratulated Joe, Allan, and David.

Goals and Objectives

Don Williams - Focus on Voter Turnout

Wrestling - Work on relationship with other boards and committees, specifically Select Board

Mr. Canty is the SB liason to COPC.

Wrestling would like to see COPC and SB have joint meetings. COPC report to Town Meeting.

Bill Arienti would like a specific date for state and federal delegation to attend COPC to discuss issues pertinent to Plymouth

Joe Hutchinson would like to see a rep at the Fin Com.

Don Williams would like to educate the public on civic affairs, important for voter turn out.

Clare Montanari would like to involve the school children.

Don Williams has a call in to curriculum coordinator about Civics.

Joe Hutchinson wants awareness of the Master Plan. Resolve the confusion.

Have planning come in to talk.

Don Williams is on the Master Plan Task Force. A proposal was approve 3-1 by the Planning Board. It is an article for Town Meeting.

Susan Wentworth wants a Town Meeting Handbook review. It would be helpful for new town meeting members.

Kevin Lynch would like something informative that is more interesting than the minutes. TMT Town Meeting Time at select board meetings to keep each board abreast of concerns.

Chris Pratt would like to see the successful completion of an Legislative Oversight approach and a Town Meeting Handbook this year.

Minutes for June 15, 2023

Wrestling Brewster motioned to approve the minutes.

Secoded by Bill Arienti

A roll call vote was taken.

13 Approved

4 Abstained : Precinct 5 Kevin Lynch, Precinct 7 David Golden, Precinct 9

Kathryn Holmes, and Precinct 18 Carmen LiFrieri

1 Absent Precinct 10 Alan Costello

Old and New Business

Mr. Costello is working with the Town Manager to secure a date and room for the Legislative Oversight Committee. The information will be sent to all town meeting members.

Superintendent of Schools, Chris Campbell will come to a meeting to discuss redistricting, buildings and the budget.

Michelle Bratti from the Center for Active Living will share the report from the demographic research obtained by a consultant which was approved by town meeting.

A presentation night will be scheduled in preparation for Town Meeting.

We agreed to have two meetings a month when needed. One is always on the third Thursday of the month. The other would be on the second Monday of the month.

I need a motion to not to have a second meeting in August.

Bill Arienti motioned not to have a second meeting in August. Seconded by Pompey Delafield.

12 Approved

1 No: Precinct 7 David Golden

4 Abstained: Precinct 3 Dale Webber, Precinct 11 Frank O'Brien, Precinct 14 Thomas Begley, Precinct 16 Pompey Delafield

1 Absent: Precinct 10 Alan Costello

Motion carries

Public Comment

Wrestling Brewster spoke u

nder public comment about a candidate for the alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He is a developer and would have projects that he is involved in or his competitors are involved in come before the ZBA. This developer would have to recuse himself often. His appointment is not in the best interest of Plymouth.

Speak to the select board members and ask them not to appoint this individual.

The select board votes at their meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Mr. Serkey from Precinct 2 suggested that there be an alternate way of voting without going through the roll call. For example just count the No's. Kathryn explained that because of hybrid meetings the roll call is mandatory.

Mr. Serkey will forward to the chair and Mr. Arienti, the Supreme Court opinion on property taking.

Mr. Serkey would like to have a competition among Precincts to see what precinct was able to remove the most graffiti. He explained the process set out in the Graffiti Removal Bylaw which was passed 12 years ago.

Mr. Arienti suggested that Mr. Serkey get in touch with George McKay, who had a similar idea.

Kathryn thanked Mr. Serkey for all his work.

Adjournment

Mr. Brewster motioned to adjourn. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Minutes approved 9/21/2023

Submitted by Pat Adelman