

Draft

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2013

Chairman Jim Osten called the meeting to order at 7:31. With XX members representing xx precincts, a quorum was present.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Barry Orenstein reported that the account balance was \$1,258 at the end of March and now stood at \$1,927. Andy Friedlich suggested a future meeting address setting a floor on the TMMA account balance.

**New TMM Education.** Glenn Parker came as an individual TMM – not in his role as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee – to discuss creating material to educate new TMM's. Glenn urged the TMMAEC to appoint a committee to write a new set of guidelines for participating in TM. Glenn reported that Moderator Deborah Brown supports this concept. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that a subcommittee of 9 people would be appointed to this committee.

**School Committee Report.** Maryanne Stewart reported to the Committee in her role as the School Committee Liaison. She noted that the SC is working on:

- Policy revisions, including minimum and maximum class sizes
- Forming a subcommittee on elementary foreign language
- Estabrook construction, which is "on track and on budget."
- Bowman and Bridge construction, which are ramping up for summer work
- Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> is the last day of school
- LPS is on track to meet its budget

**Anaerobic Digester.** George Burnell came to report on the AD process. He noted that there is no clear TM role in the process and recommended that TM not try to get out ahead of the Selectmen in the process.

Andy Friedlich commented on how this issue had "flown under the radar" and noted that he had been contacted by constituents who were concerned about the AD. Andy also wondered why Town staff was spending time on an RFP for the AD when there has not yet been a Town discussion of the AD.

Peter Kelley spoke about the Selectmen's role in the process. He noted that the AD has been under consideration for "many years" and that the project would address environmental concerns using technology proven in Europe and in the US. Selectman Kelley also noted that the Selectmen will follow the "Lexington Way" and bring the issue to a vote in TM before going ahead. He noted that the RFP process was designed to get all information on the table and did not imply that a decision to proceed had been made.

Burt Perlmutter from the Board of Health shared that the Board did not have an official position on the AD but did have a concern that the AD be properly supervised to ensure that issues such as odor, vermin, and waste spillage did not occur. The Board is also concerned that the state DEP would be able to circumvent the local Board of Health and directly permit the facility. The reason for this concern is that the DEP does not have a mechanism for inspection but rather merely reacts to complaints.

Chris Barnett, Eldridge Street, noted that the AD would not help waste in Lexington but rather would receive waste primarily from institutional food waste producers in the area. Elizabeth Barnett, also of Eldridge Street, noted concern about rats and impact on wildlife in the nearby wetlands and other areas.

**Lexmedia.** It was confirmed that Eph Weiss is the TMMA rep to Lexmedia.

**Future Agenda Items.** The June 12 meeting will be a review of STM with Moderator Deborah Brown.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

**Whereas** Patrick Mehr, a Member of Town Meeting, has on June 3, 2013, on the Lexington Town Meeting Members Association electronic forum asserted that town staff and officials lied in official statements on behalf of the Town to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts simply because their interpretation of state statutes differed from his own, and did so in disdainful and scornful language; and

**Whereas** such uncivil behavior is contrary to the rules set forth by both Lexington Town Meeting and the Town Meeting Members Association; and

**Whereas** this behavior is detrimental to the collegial discussion of town issues and discourages participation by those of lesser passions and those who fear public ridicule;

**Now therefore we**, the Executive Committee of the Town Meeting Members Association, do hereby condemn his behavior and urge in the strongest terms that Mr. Mehr amend his style of communication to eliminate accusation, scorn, derision, innuendo, repetitiveness and other such negative attributes.