

CORRECTED MINUTES
ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE
TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

March 24, 2018

Pursuant to the Warning for the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting recorded in the Town Records Volume 21, page 64, the legal voters qualified to vote, met at the Brattleboro Area Middle School Multi-purpose room on March 24, 2018, at 8:30 A.M.

At 8:32 A.M., Moderator Lawrin Crispe called the meeting to order.

Checklist attendant and Assistant Town Clerk Jane Fletcher reported that more than 90 Town Meeting Members were present. Moderator Crispe announced that 78 members constitute a quorum. A total of 123 members were present at various times of the day.

The Moderator called upon Elizabeth McLoughlin to lead the meeting with an opening convocation.

Boy Scouts Troop 405 led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator enumerated the many years of public service provided to the town by former meeting members, Charles Cummings, Steven Steidle, Hugh Bronson, Frances "Frankie" Gibson and Timothy J. O'Connor, Jr., who passed away in the last year and asked for a moment of silence in their honor.

Town Clerk Hilary Francis read the opening and closing paragraphs of the Warning for the record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Moderator announced procedural rules of the meeting; that the meeting was being broadcast by BCTV Channel 10 on Comcast and Southern Vermont Cable, as well as streaming live at brattleborotv.org and Facebook with audio coverage by BCTV; and that interpretation for the deaf and hard of hearing was being provided by Cory Brunner, Elizabeth Fox, Janet Dickinson and Karen Todd.

PRELIMINARY MOTION #1) Selectboard member John Allen moved: That the following persons be authorized to sit in the reserved section with the Selectboard and School Directors: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Town Attorney Robert Fisher, School Superintendent Lyle Holiday and Business Administrator Frank Rucker.

The motion was seconded.

There being no further discussion on the motion, it was unanimously adopted and the individuals were invited to join the meeting.

Kurt Daims moved to suspend the rules and have public participation and other business at the beginning of the meeting. The motion was seconded. As this would require a two-thirds vote a division was called for but the moderator determined that a count was not needed to verify two-thirds. The motion was defeated.

PRELIMINARY MOTION #2) Selectboard Chair Kate O'Connor moved: That the electronic media be permitted to remain in the reserved section.

The motion was seconded and, with no discussion, unanimously carried.

ARTICLES: Prior to any action, the Moderator read each article and asked the pleasure of the meeting.

AUDITORS' REPORT: Under **Article 1**, Selectboard member Brandie Starr moved: That the auditor's reports be accepted as printed. (Town and Town School District)

The motion was seconded and, with no discussion, on a standing-voice vote the article was unanimously adopted.

EMPLOY CPA: Under **Article 2**, Selectboard member Dave Schoales moved: That the Town and Town School District authorize its Selectboard and School Directors to employ a certified public accountant or public accountants.

The motion was seconded and, with no discussion, on a standing-voice vote the article was unanimously adopted.

TOWN CLERK: Under **Article 3**, Selectboard member John Allen moved: That the appointment of Hilary Francis as Town and Town School District Clerk for a term of one year from March 26, 2018, be ratified, approved and confirmed.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the appointment was unanimously approved.

TOWN TREASURER: Under **Article 4**, Selectboard Chair Kate O'Connor moved: That the appointment of John O'Connor as Town and Town School District Treasurer for a term of one year from March 26, 2018 be ratified, approved and confirmed.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the appointment was unanimously approved.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Under **Article 5**, Selectboard member Brandie Starr moved: That the appointment of Fisher and Fisher Law Offices, P. C., as Town Attorney for a term of one year from March 26, 2018 be ratified, approved, and confirmed.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the appointment was overwhelmingly approved.

CAPITAL GRANT REVIEW BOARD: Under **Article 6**, the Moderator sought volunteers from the floor for the Capital Grant Review Board.

Georges Herzog and Wayne Estey were nominated.

Dave Schoales moved: That Georges Herzog and Wayne Estey be appointed to serve on the Capital Grant Review Board for a term of one year from March 26, 2018.

The motion was seconded. With no additional discussion, both were unanimously appointed to the Capital Grant Review Board.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING FINANCE COMMITTEE: Under **Article 7** the Moderator sought volunteers from the floor for the Representative Town Meeting Finance Committee.

Franz Reichsman nominated the following members: Franz Reichsman, Avery Schwenk, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Abbe Sweeney, Nancy Anderson, Scott Smyth, and Wayne Estey.

Michael Hoffman nominated himself.

Ralph Meima commended Franz Reichsman for his extraordinary dedication over the past year.

John Allen moved: That the nominees be appointed to serve on the Representative Town Meeting Finance Committee for a term to expire at the next annual Representative Town Meeting.

The motion was seconded. With no discussion, all were unanimously appointed to the Representative Town Meeting Finance Committee.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES: Under **Article 8**, the Moderator announced that the Brooks Memorial Library Trustees had put forward the name of Adam Franklin-Lyons and after approval of the warning requested that Sirkka Kauffman and Leo Schiff be added as a second and third nomination.

Adam Franklin-Lyons, Sirkka Kauffman and Leo Schiff were nominated.

Kate O'Connor then moved: That the following people be appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Brooks Memorial Library: Adam Franklin-Lyons, Sirkka Kauffman and Leo Schiff for three-year terms (2018-2021).

The motion was seconded and on a standing-voice vote the motion was unanimously adopted.

AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW: Under **Article 9**, Brandie Starr moved: That the Selectboard be authorized to borrow money on its notes in anticipation of taxes, grants and other revenue.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

SELECTBOARD SALARIES: Under **Article 10**, Dave Schoales moved: That the salaries of the Selectboard be set at \$3,000.00 each; that the salary of the Chairperson be set at \$5,000.00, and that the Selectboard be authorized to fix the salaries of all other town officers for fiscal year 2018-2019.

The motion was seconded.

Kurt Daims moved to amend the amounts to be \$20,000 each and \$25,000 for the Chairperson. The motion was seconded. He explained that the Selectboard has a big and rigorous job, and they are overworked. These positions should be made available to people of lesser means who might need childcare.

After a brief discussion, Spoon Agave moved to amend the Daims amendment to increase the Selectboard stipend by 2.7% to be consistent with other Town employees and staff. The motion was seconded.

After brief discussion, George Carvill moved to cease debate on the Agave amendment, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was passed with 61 in favor and 19 opposed. With no further discussion, Mr. Agave's motion to amend Mr. Daims' motion was overwhelmingly defeated.

Following a brief discussion on Mr. Daims' motion, including information on studies done regarding other towns' Selectboard salaries and surveys done locally, on a standing-voice vote, the amendment was overwhelmingly defeated.

With no further discussion, the main motion as presented by Mr. Schoales was overwhelmingly adopted on a standing-voice vote.

AERIAL LADDER TRUCK BOND/NOTE VOTE: Under **Article 11**, there was a Bond Vote by Australian Ballot to determine: Shall the bonds or notes of the Town of Brattleboro in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 and bearing interest not to exceed 5% be issued for the purpose of purchasing for the Fire Department an aerial ladder truck?

Spoon Agave moved to suspend the rules, requiring a two-thirds vote, to discuss Articles 11 and 12 simultaneously. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was approved. All debate can be seen under article 12.

Moderator, Lawrin Crispe announced that polls would open at 10:00am and would remain open for a half hour after the close of the meeting. (Polls later closed at 7:39pm). Result of the vote was as follows:

Yes	113
No	10

AERIAL LADDER TRUCK: Under **Article 12**, Kate O'Connor moved: That the Town transfer from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to the Capital Fund the sum of \$450,000 to pay to that extent part of the cost of a replacement aerial ladder truck for the Fire Department.

The motion was seconded.

Kate O'Connor gave a brief history of the current fleet and explained why the Selectboard is recommending the purchase of the Aerial Ladder Truck in this manner.

Following lengthy discussion expressing a desire to purchase the truck and debating the best approach to finance this purchase, Thomas Hilsdon moved to cease debate, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was approved with 73 in favor and 28 opposed.

With no further discussion, on a standing-voice vote the Article 12 motion was overwhelmingly adopted.

RECESS: At 10:41 A.M. the Moderator declared a short recess.

At 10:59 A.M. the Moderator reconvened the meeting.

SKATE PARK: Under **Article 13**, John Allen moved: That the Town transfer from the Unassigned General Fund Balance the sum of \$20,000 to the Skatepark Fund toward the construction of the Skatepark at the Living Memorial Park.

The motion was seconded.

After hearing from the Jeff Clark, Chair of the Skatepark Committee, and a brief discussion, Shela Linton moved to amend the motion to increase the amount to \$30,000. The motion was seconded. Following further discussion, Ms. Linton agreed to accept a change to the amendment, proposed by Rusty Sage, by increasing the amount to \$60,000 rather than \$30,000. The amendment was seconded.

Following lengthy discussion regarding the benefits to the town's youth and how long this project has been going on, Tom Green moved to cease debate on Ms. Linton's amendment, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was approved with 88 in favor and 21 opposed.

On a standing-voice vote on the Linton amendment, the amendment was overwhelming approved.

Following further debate, George Roberge moved to cease debate on the main motion as amended, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was approved with 91 in favor and 19 opposed.

On a standing-voice vote, the main motion as amended was overwhelmingly approved.

RECESS: At 12:25 P.M. the Moderator declared a recess.

At 1:33 P.M., after confirming the presence of a quorum, the Moderator reconvened the meeting.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING REPAIRS: Under **Article 14**, Brandie Starr moved: That the Town transfer from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to the Capital Fund the sum of \$300,000 for the purpose of purchasing an excavator at an estimated cost of \$150,000, funding the Gibson-Aiken Center Roofing and Insulation Project at an estimated cost of \$115,000, and purchasing a 1/2-ton pickup truck at an estimated cost of \$35,000.

The motion was seconded and there was brief discussion. On a standing-voice vote, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

HARRIS PLACE EMBANKMENT REPAIRS: Under **Article 15**, Dave Schoales moved: That the Town ratify, confirm and approve the Selectboard's expenditure from the Capital Fund of \$118,339.17 for emergency repairs performed on the Harris Place embankment.

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion. On a standing-voice vote, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT: Under **Article 16**, John Allen moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$78,000 through special assessments on properties within the Downtown Improvement District (as approved by Town Meeting March 19, 2005, and as delineated in the Town Ordinance entitled "Municipal Act to Establish and Regulate the Downtown Improvement District") to be used for capital and operating costs of projects of the Town's duly designated downtown organization as reflected in its work plan and budget.

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion. On a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

MOUNTAIN HOME PARK SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT TAX DISTRICT: Under **Article 17**, Kate O'Connor moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$223,276.48 through special assessments on property within the "Mountain Home Park Special Benefit Assessment Tax District" (as approved by Town Meeting, March 24, 2007, and as delineated in the Town Ordinance entitled "Municipal Act to Establish and Regulate the Mountain Home Park Special Benefit Assessment Tax District") for the purpose of paying debt service on the capital

improvements to the water and sewer lines serving the Mountain Home and Deepwood Mobile Home Parks.

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion. On a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS: Under **Article 18**, Brandie Starr moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$146,000 to support human service programs and facilities for the residents of Brattleboro to be allocated among service providers in the following manner:

- Aids Project of Southern Vermont - \$2,000
- American Red Cross – NH and VT Region - \$1,000
- Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$7,500
- Boys & Girls Club – \$15,000
- Brattleboro Area Adult Day (Gathering Place) - \$4,000
- Brattleboro Area Hospice - \$1,200
- Brattleboro Centre for Children - \$4,000
- Brattleboro Senior Meals - \$7,000
- Family Garden - \$2,500
- Green Mountain Crossroads - \$3,000
- Green Mountain RSVP - \$700
- Groundworks Collaborative - \$20,000
- Health Care & Rehabilitation Services - \$3,500
- KidsPLAYce - \$4,000
- Meeting Waters-YMCA - \$5,000
- Senior Solutions - \$3,000
- Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) - \$12,000
- Root Social Justice Center - \$5,000
- Turning Point - \$10,000
- Vermont Center for Independent Living - \$1,600
- Vermont Family Network - \$1,500
- Visiting Nurse & Hospice of VT & NH - \$10,000
- Windham County Safe Place Child Advocacy Center and Southeastern Unit for Special Investigations - \$1,500
- Women’s Freedom Center - \$5,000
- Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Summer Food Program - \$6,000
- Youth Services - \$10,000

The motion was seconded and a brief discussion followed.

Alex Fischer moved to amend the motion by increasing the sum by \$7,000 to fulfill the full requests of the Women’s Freedom Center, giving them an additional \$5,000, and the Green Mountain Crossroads, giving them an additional \$2,000.

The motion was seconded and following a lengthy discussion about the Human Services Committee application process, David Emery moved to cease debate on the Fischer amendment, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote, debate ceased with 78 in favor and 24 opposed. On a standing voice-vote, the amendment was defeated.

Kurt Daims moved to amend the original motion to increase the Human Services budget by \$54,000 to \$200,000 to be distributed proportionally. The motion was seconded. After a brief discussion, Mr. Daims accepted Robin Morgan’s change to the amendment, to increase the amount by \$37,200, making it \$183,200, in order to fully fund all requests made. The change was seconded.

After further discussion, including a recommendation to the Human Services Committee to re-assess their process for vetting applications, Mary White moved to cease debate on Mr. Daims’ amendment, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion

was seconded and by a division vote, debate ceased with 74 in favor and 21 opposed.

On a standing-voice vote, the Daims amendment was overwhelmingly defeated.

With no further debate on the original motion, on a standing voice-vote, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

GREEN UP VERMONT: Under **Article 19**, Dave Schoales moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$300 for the purpose of a contribution to Green Up Vermont.

The motion was seconded and there was a brief discussion. On a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

SOUTHERN VERMONT WATERSHED ALLIANCE: Under **Article 20**, John Allen moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the purpose of a contribution to Southern Vermont Watershed Alliance.

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion. On a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

BRATTLEBORO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COALITION: Under **Article 21**, Brandie Starr moved: That the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$10,000 to assist in funding Brattleboro Sustainable Energy Coalition.

The motion was seconded. Following a moderate discussion about the structure of the Energy Committee and the Coordinator, and the use of the money, Peter Falion moved to cease debate, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was approved with 83 voting in favor and 16 opposed.

On a standing-voice vote, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

RECESS: At 3:32 P.M. the Moderator declared a short recess.

At 3:52 P.M. the Moderator reconvened the meeting.

TOWN APPROPRIATION: Under **Article 22**, Kate O'Connor moved: That the Selectboard be authorized to raise, appropriate and expend the sum not to exceed \$16,553,615.00 (Sixteen Million, Five Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred Fifteen Dollars) in order to defray to that extent all general fund expenses for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, including all highway and Windham County taxes, and that the Selectboard be authorized to expend, in addition, any sum authorized for special purpose under any article contained in the warning for this meeting or any special Representative Town Meeting. This motion includes the following funding sources: \$810,000.00 (Eight Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars) to be appropriated from the Unassigned General Fund Balance, \$14,696,643.00 (Fourteen Million, Six Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Forty-Three Dollars) to be collected in property taxes, and the balance to be comprised of all other sources of revenue collected by the Town. This motion also provides that the Town and School District taxes assessed on the Grand List as of April 1, 2018, shall be due and payable in four (4) equal installments payable to the Town Treasurer until overdue, then to the Collector of Taxes; that such payment of the installments shall be received by the Town Treasurer's Office on or before 5:00pm on August 15, 2018, November 15, 2018, February 15, 2019,

and May 15, 2019; and that interest at a rate of one percent (1%) per month be charged from the due date of payment on any overdue payment of the town tax, installment, or portion thereof; and that a penalty of eight percent (8%) be charged on any overdue payment that remains due and owing on May 16, 2019.

The motion was seconded and Ms. O'Connor addressed the body. She explained that the \$810,000 to be appropriated from the Unassigned General Fund Balance includes the \$60,000 for the Skatepark that was voted on earlier in the day under Article 13. The tax increase is 3.6 cents.

Franz Reichsman moved to amend the motion to increase the amount that the Selectboard is authorized to raise, appropriate and expend to a sum not to exceed \$16,593,615.00 (Sixteen Million, Five Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand, Six Hundred Fifteen Dollars), increase the amount to be collected in property taxes to \$14,736,643.00 (Fourteen Million, Seven Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Forty-Three Dollars), and decrease the amount appropriated from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to \$770,000 (Seven Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars), to allow the Skatepark to be paid for with property tax dollars and not the Unassigned General Fund Balance.

The motion was seconded and there was a brief discussion. On a standing-voice vote, the Reichsman amendment unanimously passed.

Spoon Agave moved to amend the motion to raise the general budget by \$500,000 to \$17,093,615, and raise property taxes to \$15,236,643, to enable the Selectboard to pay for the Aerial Ladder Truck in cash and not have to take out a loan and pay interest.

The motion was seconded. Following a lengthy discussion about the merits of borrowing and keeping a level tax rate versus raising tax rates now and avoiding paying interest later, Leo Schiff moved to cease debate on the Agave amendment, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was approved with 74 voting in favor and 22 opposed.

On a standing-voice vote, the amendment was overwhelmingly defeated.

Following a brief discussion about the original motion as amended by Franz Reichsman, on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

SIDEWALK PLOW: Under **Article 23**, Dave Schoales moved: That the Town authorize the following capital purchase: The purchase of a sidewalk plow in an amount not to exceed \$140,000 and to finance the same through FY19 Property Taxes.

The motion was seconded. After moderate discussion regarding the need for the second sidewalk plow, Tom Franks moved to cease debate, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was approved.

On a standing-voice vote, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

SeVEDS: Under **Article 24**, Kate O'Connor moved: That the Town authorize the Selectboard to expend \$24,000 from Program Income (a revolving loan fund that disperses proceeds which originated as Community Development Block Grants) as a contribution to the operation of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS).

The motion was seconded. Adam Grinold, Executive Director of BDCC addressed the body. There was a moderate discussion regarding how SeVEDS spends their money, including sending out a mailing, and how supportive or not they are of start-

up businesses in our community. Stan Borofsky moved to cease debate, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote was defeated with 59 voting in favor and 31 opposed.

Following further debate, Conor Floyd moved to cease debate, requiring a two-thirds vote. The motion was seconded and by a division vote, debate ceased with 76 in favor and 14 opposed.

On a standing-voice vote, the article was overwhelmingly adopted.

BRADLEY HOUSE EXEMPTION: Under **Article 25**, John Allen moved: That the Town approve exemption of the education tax portion of real estate taxes for Bradley House for a period of one year.

The motion was seconded and there was a brief discussion. On a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

Following Town business and prior to Town School District business, the following took place:

JOHN ALLEN RESOLUTION – Kate O'Connor offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, John Allen has served on the Brattleboro Selectboard from 2008 to 2010 and from 2013 through today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen has separately served as a Town Meeting Member in 2012 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen has served as Vice-Chair and Clerk of the Selectboard during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen served as the Selectboard representative on the Police-Fire Facilities Building Committee since April 2, 2013, and has contributed his contractor's knowledge and building skills in many valuable ways to complete those projects; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen has been Brattleboro's representative to the Windham Solid Waste Management District Board of Supervisors as the primary representative since December 6, 2016, and as the alternate representative prior to that; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen has been a tireless, passionate, and enthusiastic supporter for building a Skatepark in Brattleboro; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen served on the Selectboard through many challenges, including several changes in senior management, such as the search for and hiring of a new Town Manager (2013-2014), a new Police Chief (2014), and a new Town Clerk (2016); renovating and improving the wastewater treatment plant; traveling to Montpelier to meet with Governor Shumlin to encourage economic equity for Brattleboro as a "hub town"; and the implementation of Pay-As-You-Throw, every other week trash collection, and single stream recycling to reduce costs and environmental impact in the Town's solid waste management program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen has served the people of Brattleboro with a sense of humor and an eye for keeping Town taxes affordable while maintaining acceptable levels of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Representative Town Meeting, on its own behalf and on behalf of the entire Town, thanks John Allen for his many years of dedicated service to the Town of Brattleboro

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY O'CONNOR: The Moderator recognized Tim Ellis to lead the body in a special tribute to Timothy O'Connor, by singing *Danny Boy*.

Moving back to Town School District Business:

SCHOOLBOARD SALARIES: Under **Article 26**, Kim Price moved: That the legal voters of the Town of Brattleboro School District authorize its Board of School Directors to pay the following amounts for the ensuing fiscal year: to its school directors the sum of \$3,000 each, except that the chairperson shall be paid the sum of \$5,000.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion, and on a standing-voice vote unanimously adopted.

BORROWING IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES: Under **Article 27**, Dave Schoales moved: That the legal voters in the Town of Brattleboro School District authorize its Board of School Directors to borrow money pending the receipt of taxes, and not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year, by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof.

The motion was seconded and there was no discussion. On a standing-voice vote the article was unanimously adopted

FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS: Under **Article 28**, Spoon Agave moved: That the legal voters of the Town of Brattleboro School District be authorized to accept and expend categorical grants and aid received from the State of Vermont and the United States Government.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and, on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROPRIATION: Under **Article 29**, Robin Morgan moved: That the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$14,659,600.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,356.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.1% lower than spending for the current year.

The motion was seconded. Ms. Stahl-Tyler addressed the body. Following a brief discussion, on a standing-voice vote, the article was unanimously adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: Under **Article 30**, to transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting. The Moderator reminder the body that all items under Other Business are non-binding. The following items were brought before the assembly:

Renewable Energy Resolution: Kurt Daims offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS we have a moral duty to reduce the various pollutants that cause untold harm to people all over the world, and

WHEREAS our town, our country and the world are threatened by climate disruption and the use of fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS our town Plan recommends the use of renewable energy, and

WHEREAS Green Mountain Power Corporation operates a program called Cow Power for developing investments in renewable electrical energy sources that can help us divest from fossil fuels at an additional cost of approximately twelve dollars per person per year for electricity used in town buildings,

THEREFORE we the town meeting members advise the Selectboard and Town Manager to purchase all the town buildings' electricity from renewable sources such as Cow Power. We further recommend that people of Brattleboro also should choose such electricity.

The resolution was seconded and there was brief discussion. On a standing-voice vote the resolution was overwhelmingly passed.

At this point in the meeting it was determined there was no longer a quorum.

Childcare: Robin Morgan proposed that the Selectboard provide funding for childcare at next year's Representative Town Meeting and both Pre-RTM informational sessions. The proposal was seconded and following brief discussion, the proposal was unanimously adopted.

Compassionate Communities Report: Emilie Kornheiser provided a brief report on the work of the Compassionate Communities Committee.

Human Services Committee: Emilie Kornheiser took a strawpoll of the remaining members to see if the Human Services Committee should work with 1% of the overall budget going forward.

RTM Seating Arrangement: Marshall Wheelock proposed going back to the previous set-up.

Open Meeting Law: Jennifer Jacobs addressed the body and requested that the topic of the Open Meeting Law, as it pertains to social media groups and email, be addressed at a future warned meeting of the body.

Recycling and Compost Bins: Dora Bouboulis requested that recycling and compost bins be present at future meetings, and that food provided be offered in recyclable or compostable packaging.

West River Trail: Terry Carter announced that tires are emerging on the wetlands and something needs to be done.

Pre-RTM Informational Meetings: Bob Tortolani advised all Town Meeting Members and the public to attend the School's Informational Meeting going forward.

There being no other business, George Carvill moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously with a standing-voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

Attest:

Hilary Francis
Town Clerk

Kate O'Connor
Selectboard Chair

Lawrin Crispe
Moderator