

ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE
TOWN MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

Pursuant to the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting recorded in the Town Records Volume 21, page 290, the legal voters qualified to vote met online through the Zoom platform on September 12, 2020, at 8:30 A.M.

At 8:42 A.M., Moderator Lawrin Crispe called the meeting to order.

Town Clerk Hilary Francis reported that more than 120 Town Meeting Members were present. Moderator Crispe announced that 75 members constitute a quorum. A total of 128 members were present at various times of the day.

The Moderator called upon Kate O'Connor to lead the meeting with an opening convocation.

Lawrin Crispe 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, Martha O'Connor, William Shumway, Robert Colburn, Robert Ratti, Mary Lou Buchanan, Sherwood Lake Sr, Erich Hoyer, and Andrew Eames, 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 10/1085, 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, Karen Todd, Christine Bricault, and Kristal Hier. The Moderator asked all Town Meeting Members to take a moment and correct their names.

PRELIMINARY MOTION #1) Selectboard Chair Tim Wessel moved: To suspend the rules and adopt the Moderator's "Electronic Meeting Rules" printed in the Informational Booklet for this Representative Town Meeting, as follows:

The meeting will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, the Town Charter, and Vermont State Law, modified as follows for this online meeting:

1. Quorum

The presence of a quorum shall be established by an online list of Representative Town Meeting members who have logged onto Zoom at the beginning of the meeting. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum shall be determined by the online list of participating members.

2. Audio/Video

The meeting shall include audio and video display of all Representative Town Meeting members when recognized to speak. Non-members wishing to speak who are qualified voters of the Town of Brattleboro may connect by designated telephone number and passcode.

3. Assignment of the Floor

To seek recognition by the Moderator, a member shall use the “raised hand” tool which can be accessed by clicking the “Participants” button on the control bar at the bottom of the screen.

4. Muting of Member’s Connection

Given the number of participants and in order to minimize undue background noise and interference with the meeting, all members shall be muted until recognized by the Moderator.

5. Voting

All votes shall be taken utilizing the Zoom “polling” feature which will be launched as required to record each vote. The results will be announced by the Moderator at the conclusion of each vote.

6. Technical Requirements and Malfunctions

Each RTM member is responsible for their connection to the Internet or telephone. The meeting shall not be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member’s individual connection prevented their participation in the meeting.

In any instance in which there is a conflict between these 6 enumerated “Electronic Meeting Rules” and any provisions of Robert’s Rules of Order, the Town Charter, or Vermont State Law, then these “Electronic Meeting Rules” shall prevail for this meeting.

The motion was seconded. After a brief discussion, on a Division Zoom poll vote, the motion passed with 111 in favor and 2 opposed.

Rikki Risatti moved to suspend the rules to activate the Zoom chat box. The Moderator explained that this would not be possible from a technical standpoint, as the meeting had already begun and this setting could not be changed mid-meeting. The Moderator is also responsible for controlling the discourse and all dialogue has to be directed to the Moderator. That would be impossible with the Zoom chat activated in a formal meeting like this.

Kurt Daims moved to amend the proposed motion regarding individual technical issues, as a number of people may have technical issues and that could be a problem. The Moderator explained that a quorum would still be needed in order to conduct the meeting.

PRELIMINARY MOTION #2) Selectboard Vice Chair Elizabeth McLoughlin moved: That the following persons be authorized to remain in this Zoom meeting with the Selectboard and Town Meeting Members: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Town Attorney Robert Fisher, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Executive Secretary Jan Anderson, and the ASL Interpreters.

The motion was seconded.

There being no further discussion on the motion, the motion passed on a Division Zoom poll vote, with 119 in favor and 2 opposed.

PRELIMINARY MOTION #3) Selectboard member Ian Goodnow moved: That the electronic media be permitted to remain in this Zoom meeting.

The motion was seconded and with no discussion, on a Division Zoom poll vote passed with 121 in favor and 1 opposed.

Kurt Daims moved that henceforward all elected members of RTM, including the Selectboard be seated equally. The Moderator ruled this out of order, and recommended that the motion could be brought back up under Other Business.

Spoon Agave moved that if technically possible, all motions should be written out

on the Zoom polls. The Moderator indicated that this is possible, but because this is the first virtual Representative Town Meeting and there are technical issues related to doing this, it was decided that this would not happen. It would create too much of a delay. Mr. Agave withdrew the motion.

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

AUDITORS' REPORT: Under **Article 1**, Selectboard member Daniel Quipp moved: That the auditor's reports be accepted as printed.

The motion was seconded and, with no discussion, on a Division Zoom poll vote the article was passed with 114 in favor and 2 opposed.

EMPLOY CPA: Under **Article 2**, Selectboard member Brandie Starr moved: That the Town authorize its Selectboard to employ a certified public accountant or public accountants.

The motion was seconded and, with no discussion, on a Division Zoom poll vote the article was unanimously adopted.

TOWN CLERK: Under **Article 3**, Selectboard Chair Tim Wessel moved: That the appointment of Hilary Francis as Town Clerk for a term of one year until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting, be ratified, approved and confirmed.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a Division Zoom poll vote, the appointment was unanimously approved.

TOWN TREASURER: Under **Article 4**, Selectboard Vice Chair Elizabeth McLoughlin moved: That the appointment of Andre Jaeger as Town Treasurer for a term of one year until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting be ratified, approved and confirmed.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a Division Zoom poll vote, the appointment was approved with 111 in favor and 1 opposed.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Under **Article 5**, Selectboard member Ian Goodnow moved: That the appointment of Fisher and Fisher Law Offices, P. C., as Town Attorney for a term of one year until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting be ratified, approved, and confirmed.

The motion was seconded. After a very brief discussion, the appointment was approved on a Division Zoom poll vote, with 102 in favor and 9 opposed.

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

Georges Herzog, Gary Stroud, and Lissa Weinmann were nominated. On a Division Zoom poll vote, Gary Stroud (79 votes) and Lissa Weinmann (79 votes) were nominated, and Georges Herzog (71 votes) was not.

Daniel Quipp moved: That the following people be appointed to serve on the Capital Grants Review Board for a term of one year until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting: Gary Stroud and Lissa Weinmann.

The motion was seconded. With no additional discussion, both were appointed to the Capital Grant Review Board on a Division Zoom poll vote with 116 in favor and 1 opposed.

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

Franz Reichsman thanked the committee and nominated the following members: Maya Hasegawa, David Levenbach, Millicent Cooley, Oscar Heller, and Nora Dissinger.

Oscar Heller nominated Paula Melton.

The Moderator asked for objections to voting the slate. After a few questions, the poll was launched. On a Division Zoom poll vote, the slate was nominated with 111 in favor and 5 opposed.

After a brief discussion, Brandie Starr moved: That the following people be appointed to serve on the Representative Town Meeting Finance Committee for a term of one year until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting: Maya Hasegawa, David Levenbach, Millicent Cooley, Oscar Heller, Nora Dissinger, and Paula Melton and to further authorize the Moderator to make additional interim appointments to the Finance Committee for a term to expire at the next annual Representative Town Meeting.

The motion was seconded. With no discussion, on a Division Zoom poll vote, all were appointed to the Representative Town Meeting Finance Committee, with 113 in favor and 2 opposed.

RECESS: At 10:55 A.M. the Moderator declared a short recess.

At 11:16 A.M. the Moderator reconvened the meeting.

HUMAN SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE: Under **Article 8**, the Moderator sought volunteers from the floor for the Human Services Review Committee.

Kipton Tewksbury, a member of the committee, nominated the following members: Anne Fielder, Sue Graff, John Kennedy, David Minor, and Kipton Tewksbury. All were on the committee that submitted the report for this year.

Terry Carter nominated Juanita Lane.
Robin Morgan nominated Ain Thompson.
Emmanuel Keppel nominated himself.
Gary Stroud nominated himself.
Kathryn Turnas nominated herself.

After a brief discussion clarifying that the committee was not created by charter, but rather by RTM and there are no limits to the number of people that can serve, nor is there age specified, a Zoom poll was launched to approve the slate of nominations. On the Division Zoom poll vote, the slate was approved with all members receiving a majority vote.

Tim Wessel moved: That the following people be appointed to serve on the Human Services Review Committee for a term of one year until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting: Ann Fielder, Sue Graff, John Kennedy, David Minor, Kipton Tewksbury, Juanita Lane, Ain Thompson, Emmanuel Keppel, Gary Stroud, and Kathryn Turnas, and to further authorize the Moderator to make additional interim

appointments to the Human Services Review Committee for a term to expire at the next annual Representative Town Meeting.

The motion was seconded. With no discussion, on a Division Zoom poll vote, all were appointed to the Human Services Review Committee with 117 in favor and 2 opposed.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES: Under **Article 9**, Elizabeth McLoughlin moved: That the following people be appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Brooks Memorial Library: Jennifer Rowe, Karen Tyler, and John Woodward, each for a term to expire in 2023; and Gabriel Sistare for a term to expire in 2021.

The motion was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote the motion was adopted with 112 in favor and 1 opposed.

AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW: Under **Article 10**, Ian Goodnow moved: That the Selectboard be authorized to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, grants and other revenue.

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and on a Division Zoom poll vote, the article was adopted with 109 in favor and 3 opposed.

SELECTBOARD SALARIES: Under **Article 11**, Daniel Quipp moved: That the salary of the Selectboard Chairperson be set at \$5,000 and that the salaries of the other members of the Selectboard be set at \$3,000 each.

The motion was seconded.

Kurt Daims moved to amend the motion, with the Chair receiving a salary of \$10,000 and other members receiving \$8,000. The motion was seconded.

Rikki Risatti then moved to amend the Daims amendment, so that all Selectboard members receive \$25 per hour. The motion was seconded.

After a moderate discussion including topics like how many hours current Selectboard members work, how long it would take to track those hours, the difference between paid meetings versus paid prep time, and the philosophy around the role of the Selectboard, Steven Brown moved to call the question.

The motion was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased on the Risatti amendment with 98 in favor and 16 opposed.

On a Division Zoom poll vote, the Risatti amendment failed with 9 in favor and 111 opposed.

The discussion moved back to the Daims amendment, and included topics related to the benefits of increasing salary in order to make the position more attainable to the working class and poor, versus not wanting to professionalize the position. People discussed what the term "remove money from politics means."

Arlene Distler moved to amend the Daims amendment, with the Chair receiving a salary of \$7,000 and other members receiving \$5,000. The motion was seconded.

After further conversation, Maya Hasegawa moved to call the question on the Distler secondary amendment. The motion was seconded, and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate ceases with 91 in favor and 23 opposed.

Following some clarification regarding the voting process, on a Division Zoom poll vote, the Distler secondary amendment failed with 42 in favor and 77 opposed.

After a very brief discussion, Anne Koplinka-Loehr moved to call the question on the Daims primary amendment. The motion was seconded and debate was ceased on a Division Zoom poll vote, with 92 in favor, and 25 opposed.

The Daims motion failed on a Division Zoom poll vote with 51 in favor and 68 opposed.

Steven Brown immediately moved to call the question on the main motion. This was seconded, and on a Division Zoom poll vote, the article was approved with 108 in favor and 7 opposed.

RECESS: At 1:30 P.M. the Moderator declared a recess for lunch.

At 2:33 P.M. the Moderator reconvened the meeting and confirmed that with an excess of 96 Town Meeting Members, a quorum was present.

Following lunch, Kurt Daims stated that he did not feel Mr. Peter Elwell should be speaking unless interrogated, as he is not an elected or ex-officio member of the body. He also stated that under Robert's Rules, there is a provision for reconsideration, and would like to see the previous article reconsidered. Tom Franks inquired if it would be appropriate to amend the article to discuss the salaries for the following year.

After a brief discussion and some input from Town Attorney, Bob Fisher, it was determined that Mr. Elwell was only clarifying information and not adding additional opinions. Regarding reconsideration, Mr. Fisher agreed that reconsideration would be acceptable on the previous article, but it is not germane to look at what the pay for the Selectboard would be for the following year, as that discussion was not warned.

TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND FROM THE UNASSIGNED GENERAL FUND BALANCE: Under **Article 12**, Brandie Starr moved: That the Town transfer from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to the Capital Fund the sum of \$223,000 to fund a portion of the cost of a new fire engine to replace a 1994 fire engine.

The motion was seconded and Brandie Starr requested that the Moderator recognize Peter Elwell to provide further information about this article.

Peter Elwell stated that the fire engine in question is a 1994 engine, and at 26 years old it is past its expected life. Additionally, using a portion of the unassigned fund balance for this type of purchase is normal practice, as we try to fund long term capital needs this way. Finally, after using money for this purpose, there will still be more than ten percent (10%) in the unassigned fund balance, and we will still be in compliance with the Town's practice of keeping ten percent (10%) in the fund.

Following a moderate conversation regarding the Town's financial situation following COVID-19, and the impact of climate change on increased fires, Emmanuel Keppel moved to call the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 100 in favor and 15 opposed.

On a Division Zoom poll vote, the article passed with 109 in favor and 7 opposed.

COMMUNITY MARKETING INITIATIVE: Under **Article 13**, Tim Wessel moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,748 for the Community Marketing Initiative promotion of Brattleboro performed jointly by the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance, to be

disbursed to those agencies by the Selectboard upon review and acceptance of a satisfactory plan for the use of the funds and the evaluation of the results.

The motion was seconded and Tim Wessel requested that the Moderator recognize Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kate O'Connor to provide further information about this article.

Kate O'Connor expressed that this is the second year that this funding is being requested. She explained the purpose for the campaign, the struggles that they encountered due to COVID-19, and how they switched their tactics to focus on Northern Vermont visitors rather than out-of-state visitors as they were able.

Rikki Risatti moved to amend the article to change the campaign from "Love Brattleboro" to "Love Wantastegok", which is the indigenous name. The Moderator ruled this out of order as it is not germane to the question.

After a lengthy conversation regarding the need to bring tourists to town to lift up businesses, and the lack of focus on local LGBTQ+ and BIPOC residents, Mary White called the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 93 in favor and 23 opposed.

On a Division Zoom poll vote, the article was adopted with 76 in favor and 42 opposed.

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT: Under **Article 14**, Elizabeth McLoughlin moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 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 Elizabeth McLoughlin requested that the Moderator recognize DBA Executive Director Stephanie Bonin to provide further information about this article.

Stephanie Bonin outlined some of the programs that this money funded both pre-COVID-19 and after, and how they have helped both local businesses and local residents in need.

Following a moderate discussion, on a Division Zoom poll vote, Steven Brown moved to call the question. This was seconded and debate was ceased with 95 in favor and 18 opposed.

On a Division Zoom poll vote, the article passed with 98 in favor and 18 opposed.

RECESS: At 4:30 P.M. the Moderator declared a short recess.

At 4:40 P.M. the Moderator reconvened the meeting.

HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS: Under **Article 15**, Ian Goodnow moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$190,105 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
Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$6,375
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro – \$17,000
Brattleboro Area Hospice - \$2,550

Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition (a/k/a Building a Positive Community) - \$1,250
Brattleboro Centre for Children - \$4,500
Brattleboro Community Justice Center - \$5,950
Brattleboro Senior Meals - \$5,250
Family Garden - \$2,500
Gathering Place - \$3,750
Green Mountain RSVP - \$700
Groundworks Collaborative - \$19,000
Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont - \$7,500
KidsPLAYce - \$4,000
Meeting Waters-YMCA - \$7,125
Out in the Open (f/k/a Green Mountain Crossroads) - \$8,500
The Root Social Justice Center - \$5,250
Senior Solutions - \$2,700
Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) - \$11,400
Turning Point - \$15,000
Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired - \$700
Vermont Center for Independent Living - \$1,600
Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH - \$10,980
Windham County Humane Society - \$1,000
Windham County Safe Place Child Advocacy Center and Southeastern Unit for Special Investigations - \$2,700
Women's Freedom Center - \$14,250
Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Summer Food Program - \$6,375
Youth Services - \$10,200

The motion was seconded and Ian Goodnow requested that the Moderator recognize Kipton Tewksbury to provide further information about this article.

Kipton Tewksbury, one of the members of the committee, stated that the committee received applications from 33 agencies. Following previous guidelines of Representative Town Meeting, they tried to stay within one percent (1%) of the Town's proposed budget.

Following discussion with the Moderator, Robin Morgan moved to amend the article to increase the funding for the organizations with an overall increase of \$20,235.50, for a total of \$210,340.50, with a non-binding recommendation that there be a 10% increase across the board and that the Root Social Justice Center get a total of \$7,000, their original request, being the only BIPOC led organization of the group.

The Morgan amendment was seconded. A moderate discussion followed regarding how this increase would impact taxpayers, the process that the Human Services Review Committee goes through in their decision making and the role that Representative Town Meeting members play in approving that process, and the ability to adjust the line items versus voting the amendment up or down with non-binding recommendation. At the invitation of the Moderator, Kurt Daims moved to appeal the Moderator's ruling declaring binding line item amendments out of order. This was seconded, and on a Division Zoom poll vote, the Moderator's ruling was sustained with 80 in favor and 32 opposed.

After additional conversation, Ann McCloskey moved to call the question. This was seconded and debate was ceased with 87 in favor and 24 opposed.

On a Division Zoom poll vote, the Morgan amendment passed with 64 in favor and 49 opposed.

Following a brief comment regarding the role of the Root Social Justice Center during a time of Black Lives Matter uprisings, on a Division Zoom poll vote, the article as amended by Robin Morgan was adopted with 87 in favor and 25 opposed.

At this point the Moderator asked the body if they would like to conclude the meeting tonight or recess and reconvene the meeting at 8:30am the following day.

On a Division Zoom poll vote, it was decided to conclude the meeting tonight, with 87 in favor and 28 opposed.

RECESS: At 5:53 P.M. the Moderator declared a short recess.

At 6:03 P.M. the Moderator reconvened the meeting.

ASSESSED TAX PAYMENT DUE DATES: Under **Article 16**, Daniel Quipp moved: That the Town and School District taxes assessed on the Grand List as of April 1, 2020, 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 September 15, 2020, November 16, 2020, February 16, 2021, and May 17, 2021; 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 18, 2021.

The motion was seconded and Daniel Quipp requested that the Moderator recognize Peter Elwell to provide further information about this article.

Peter Elwell explained that the language in this article is the same as is usually proposed related to taxation and paying in 4 installments rather than annually.

Rikki Risatti moved to amend the article to eliminate interest and penalty on late tax payments through June 30, 2021.

The motion was seconded. Following lengthy discussion regarding the role of the Board of Abatements in forgiving taxes due to inability to pay and other reasons, the need to assist those who are faced with hardship during the pandemic, the risks that such a proposal might bring to the Town's cash flow, and the unknowns of how this might impact tax payers in the long run, Kurt Daims moved to recess until 8:30am on September 13.

The motion was seconded and Tom Franks moved to call the question. On a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 90 in favor and 24 opposed. With 41 in favor and 70 opposed to recessing, the meeting continued on.

Returning to the Risatti amendment, Richard Cooke moved to call the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 97 in favor and 14 opposed.

On a Division Zoom poll vote, the Risatti amendment was defeated with 25 in favor and 88 opposed.

Daniel Quipp pointed out that there are a number of programs that exist that aim to help people in need during the pandemic.

Joshua Jones moved to call the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 100 in favor and 10 opposed.

The original main motion was adopted on a Division Zoom poll vote with 105 in favor and 5 opposed.

SeVEDS: Under **Article 17**, Brandie Starr moved: That the Town authorize the expenditure of \$36,147 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 and Brandie Starr requested that the Moderator recognize BDCC Executive Director, Adam Grinold.

Adam Grinold thanked the body and Brattleboro residents for their long standing support, and made himself available for any questions.

With no discussion, the article passed on a Division Zoom poll vote, with 82 in favor and 25 opposed.

MOUNTAIN HOME PARK SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT TAX DISTRICT: Under **Article 18**, Tim Wessel moved: That the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$223,276.47 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 a brief discussion regarding clarification for what this article means and what specifically the money is spent on. Joshua Jones moved to call the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 94 in favor and 10 opposed. The article passed with 100 in favor and 3 opposed.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION: Under **Article 19**, Elizabeth McLoughlin moved: That the Town adopt the following resolution and submit it to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as comments to communicate the Towns' ongoing concerns and interests:

"Whereas, the peaking operations of Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon dams have been causing daily surface water elevation fluctuations of, on average 2-3 feet every day in the impoundments behind the dams for at least 70 years, resulting in loss of land for landowners in VT and NH and degradation of water quality and habitat of the river for decades;

"Whereas, in the late 1970s, during the last relicensing process, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) conducted an erosion study on the project area; and FERC issued the last licenses in early 1979 just months before the ACOE completed their study in November of that year; and the ACOE study clearly states that pool level fluctuations are the *second most important causative factor* for erosion in the project areas.

"Whereas, the erosion study completed for the current relicensing by Great River Hydro, the current owner of these three projects did not look at the effect of pool level changes on erosion, instead, focusing only on potential erosion due to velocity along the bank edge that would be typical for a natural river system; and the Connecticut River in the project area does not function as a natural river, instead functioning as a series of lakes, with water flow controlled by the dams.

“Whereas, many towns and landowners up and down the river have used millions of dollars in public and private money to attempt to stabilize and restore their streambanks to protect property and infrastructure over the past 70 years;

“Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Brattleboro, formally requests that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission require, via license article, the current and any subsequent owners of the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon Dams to modify current dam operations to minimize peaking; provide for ongoing streambank monitoring; develop a shoreline adaptive management plan; and create a mitigation and enhancement fund to support riverbank restoration and/or property owner compensation to reimburse towns and landowners for any and all damages resulting from the deterioration of the riverbank.”

The motion was seconded and Elizabeth McLoughlin requested that the Moderator recognize Connecticut River Steward Kathy Urffer to provide further information about this article.

Kathy Urffer explained the motion and the importance of it. Following praise from the members on the work that has been done, Anne Koplinka-Loehr moved to call the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom vote, debate was ceased with 88 in favor and 9 opposed. The article was unanimously adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: Article 20: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

Praise was given to Moderator, Lawrin Crispe; to Assistant Town Manager, Patrick Moreland; to the staff involved in organizing a Zoom RTM; and to BCTV and the interpreters.

The Moderator reminded the members that only advisory action could be taken under other business.

Tim Wessel gave an informal shout-out to David Schoales who served on the Selectboard for many years

Marta Gossage moved to propose that next year’s “other business” be considered directly after lunch. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote was defeated with 35% in favor and 65% opposed.

Kurt Daims moved to reconsider and debate the Gossage resolution. Following moderate discussion about the frustrations that many are feeling with the length of these meetings and the feeling of rushing due to fatigue by the end, Roni Byrne called the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 85% in favor and 15% opposed (these results were reported in percentages and not in numbers). On the second vote, the resolution failed with 19 in favor and 65 opposed.

Emily Megas-Russell proposed that the Selectboard consider increasing the Human Service Review Committee budget to a minimum of 2% of the total budget for the previous year. This was seconded. Following a moderate discussion, Georgia Morgan called the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 54 in favor and 15 opposed. The non-binding resolution passed with 47 in favor and 25 opposed.

Rikki Risatti moved to recess and continue new business at 8:30am the next day, and to continue this practice in future years. This was seconded and after brief

discussion regarding concerns about a quorum, Ain Thompson moved to call the question. This was seconded and on a Division Zoom poll vote, debate was ceased with 55 in favor and 10 opposed. The Risatti proposal was defeated with 10 in favor and 57 opposed.

There being no other business, Anne Koplinka-Loehr moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and with no discussion, the motion passed on a Division Zoom poll vote, with 57 in favor and 7 opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

Attest:

Hilary Francis
Town Clerk

Tim Wessel
Selectboard Chair

Lawrin Crispe
Moderator