

## **Minutes for Annual Town Meeting**

The legal voters of the Town of Greensboro are hereby warned and notified to meet at The Highland Center for The Arts in Greensboro, Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 9 a.m. to transact the following business:

Tim Nisbet opened with announcements

John Schweizer thanked all who were involved with the Town Report. It was great.

Brett Stanciu thanked Jennifer Lucas and Eric Hanson and the rest of the committee who worked diligently to prepare the budget.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator to govern said town for the coming year.

Karl Stein nominated Tim Nisbet.

**Tim Nisbet was elected by unanimous vote**

Article 2: To elect a Town Clerk for a three-year term

Janet Long nominated Kim Greaves

Mike Metcalf moved that the nominations cease and the Clerk cast one

Ballot for Kim Greaves for Town Clerk.

**Kim Greaves was elected by unanimous vote**

Article 3: To take action on the Town of Greensboro Annual printed report.

Kim Greaves moved

Janet Long seconded.

**GREENSBORO AWARD PRESENTED:**

Ellen Celnik announced that the Greensboro Award goes to Dan Predpall and read a presentation. Dan was not present

**RURAL EDGE, Patrick Shattuck, Executive Director**

Patrick Shattuck spoke to the conversations around Rural Edge looking to develop the Greensboro Town Hall. He said he was asked by the Selectboard and the Planning Commission to look into reconfiguring Town Hall into modest income rental housing after WonderArts leaves.

In November Rural Edge came to look at the Town Hall by invitation of the Selectboard to look at this historic anchor building. Mr. Shattuck's background is in historic preservation. He thought it would be of service to the community to put together an open ended proposal, starting with a feasibility study. Demographics show the income of the year-round older population is below others in Orleans County. They would look at all aspects including wastewater,

lead, asbestos, PCBs. The Board would agree to a one year option for a feasibility study by Rural Edge which would give Rural Edge exclusivity for the term of the agreement.

Mr. Shattuck felt the feasibility study would evaluate the building for approximately 20 units, respecting the historic value.

Tim Brennan voiced that moderate housing was needed.

Nancy Reige asked about the timeline for this. Mr. Shattuck offered that the feasibility study would take about a year, then do the architectural study, bid documents taking another year. Another year of construction so 2026 maybe for occupancy.

Ken Johnston asked if there were other uses for the building being considered.

Peter Romans offered that there were no other proposals.

**JENNIFER HARLOW, ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF**

Sheriff Harlow commented on the high number of turn out in Greensboro for Town Meeting. She said the Sheriff’s office appreciated all the community support and loves working in town. Please call or email if anyone has any questions or concerns.

Article 4: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro authorize property tax exemption for the “Ballfield” property identified as parcel ID 005-0002 for a three-year period. This will eliminate the municipal property tax due. However, the amount due for education taxes will still need to be raised and will be included in our Local Agreement rate.

Janet Long moved the article as written,

Mike Cassidy seconded

Question was raised as what was the “local agreement”. Kim explained that it consisted of the Veteran’s reduction in their property value and contracts such as this ballfield lease. It is approximately \$.0005 on the tax rate.

**Motion passed unanimously**

Article 5: To elect town officers and school district officers required by law and one or more library trustees:

Office	Term of	Elected
Select Board	2 yrs	Peter Romans
Select Board	3 yrs	Eric Hanson
Cemetery Commissioner	3 yrs	MacNeil
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Rose Modry

Library Trustee	3 yrs	Sharon Putney
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 yrs	Janet Long
Orleans Southwest Unified Elementary Dir.	2 yr	(skip over)
Orleans Southwest Unified Elementary Dir.	2 yr	(skip over)

Article 6: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro appropriate the following sums to the outside agencies listed below?

Kim Moved the Article

Janet Long seconded.

Tim explained that he would go through these appropriations one by one for discussion.

<b>Outside Agency</b>	<b>Amount</b>
NEK Council on Aging	\$1,000.00
AWARE	\$2,000.00
Caledonia Home Health	\$1,400.00
Clarina Howard Nichols Ct	\$1,500.00
Craftsbury Community Care	\$10,500.00
4 Seasons on Early Learning	\$9,500.00
Green Up	\$100.00
Greensboro Nursing Home	\$24,000.00
Hardwick Area Food Pantry	\$2,500.00
Lamoille Family Center	\$1,000.00
NEK Human Services	\$1,000.00
NEK Learning Services	\$300.00
North Country Animal League	\$600.00
NVDA	\$572.00
Orleans County Historical Society	\$700.00
Orleans County Citizens Advocacy	\$800.00
NEK Community Justice	\$300.00
Red Cross	\$250.00
Rescue Squad	\$22,300.00
Rural Community Transportation	\$900.00
Vt. Center for Independent Living	\$210.00
WonderArts	\$3,500.00
VCRD	\$500.00

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$85,956.00</b>
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Naomi Ranz asked if the Greensboro Nursing Home's appropriation included ARPA funding. It did not.

Jed Feffer wanted to know what NVDA was. Mike Metcalf explained that it was the Regional Planning commission that helped extensively with the town plan, town bylaws, vast town support. They are funded by State appropriations for this regional planning commission.

Will Marlier asked if the appropriation was going to WonderArts or Rural Arts.

Tim Brennan, a board member, stated that it can be restricted to just Wonder Arts if the town votes, or amends this.

Virginia Lapierre explained that Rural Arts works with the OSSU to provide after school and summer care. There are no programs being offered in Greensboro, but there is transportation money for children to go to the Craftsbury programs.

Bobbi Nisbet offered that years ago, WonderArts provided the Senior Trotters with transportation to programs. Since it has moved away, what does it have in mind for Seniors in this area.

Beth Meachem stated that they are in the process of developing 2 programs to bring seniors together and is looking for feedback on this. Also, they are looking to expand the Greensboro summer camp program where it will be free to Greensboro kids.

Bill Rogers explained that the appropriation to the Greensboro Nursing Home was to balance out the taxes for the nursing home as there is no way to waive the taxes at this time.

Janet Long spoke to the Craftsbury Community Care Center. This appropriation was to help supplement the Medicare payments for the residents

### **Motion passed unanimously**

Article 7: Shall the Town of Greensboro vote to appropriate the sum of \$750.00 for support of Salvation Farms to provide services to residents of the Town?

Janet Long moved,

Judy Carpenter 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Theresa Snow, executive director of Salvations Farms reviewed what Salvation Farms does with gleaning produce and distributing it to entities in the region.

Janet Long thanked Theresa saying they were doing a great job.

Cilla Smith explained that she had worked with Salvation Farms and supported her efforts.

### **Motion passed unanimously**

Article 8: Shall the Town of Greensboro vote to appropriate and expend the sum of \$500.00 for the support of Craftsbury Saplings, a non-profit child care center located in Craftsbury that provides services to residents of the Town of Greensboro?

Judy Carpenter moved

Bobbi Nisbet 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Judy Carpenter stated that she was employed by Saplings and they worked to take care of children. They were looking to build a larger center.

**Motion passed unanimously**

Article 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve the following Special Appropriation requests from the Municipal Properties listed below?

Greensboro Conservation	\$ 3,000
Greensboro Free Library	\$ 40,000
Greensboro Historical Society	\$ 5,000
Caspian Lake Beach	\$ 3,500
Greensboro Recreation Committee	\$ 4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 55,650</b>

Jennifer Lucas moved,  
Mike Metcalf 2<sup>nd</sup>

Larry Lumsden asked for an update on the Conservation Commission

Clive Gray stated that there was a project to have hiking trails designed and maintained, taking care of Barr Hill.

Jennifer Lucas spoke to the library appropriation. She stated that is was a vital asset in town. Payroll was the majority of the budget as they are trying to get the salaries up to the regional level. They rely on donations so they need a stable source of revenue.

BJ Gray spoke to the Historical Society appropriation. The Historical Society is here to preserve local history. Asked people to get involved, as they preserve local stories. The budget supports the archivist and some tech support. Thanked the town for their continued support.

John Schweizer spoke to the Beach committee appropriation. The committee is made up of 3 Greensboro residents and 3 Hardwick residents as the beach is owned by Hardwick. The expenses are shared ½ of Hardwick and ½ of Greensboro. The Beach gets approximately 10,000 visitors a season. The bulk of the expenses are maintenance of the beach.

Will Marlier asked if Hardwick shares the expenses. John explained that they did.

Dave Kelley spoke to the Recreation Committee appropriation. There are 3 projects the Rec committee is dealing with: The Community Park in Greensboro Bend, the swimming program (which hopefully will be free to all Greensboro children this year) and the skating rink, in partnership with HCA.

BJ Gray explained that the cold-water swimmers were active and to get involved.

**Motion passed unanimously**

Article 10: Shall the Selectboard have the ability to approve/disapprove Town Zoning Bylaw Changes or refer Town Zoning Bylaws Changes for a vote at Town Meeting?  
Kent Hanson moved

Ellen Celnik 2<sup>nd</sup>

Kent spoke to the article. He explained that they felt it would promote efficiency in updating the bylaws. There would still need to be public hearings. After the Planning commission public hearings, it would still go to the Selectboard for their public hearings Naomi felt it should still go to the town for Australian ballot vote so more people could vote.

Ellen reminded them that small things like a misspelling would need town vote if defeated

Dave Kelley stated that it should be voted against as it would take the voice of the town's people away.

Carol Fairbank stated that there would already be 2 public hearings for people to voice opinions

Will Marlier asked how expensive would an Australian ballot vote be

Kim explained that without the tabulator costs it would be relatively inexpensive i.e. advertising in newspapers and postage for absentee ballots the most. 2 election officials pay for the day.

Kent explained that the changes could be minor issues.

Ellen explained that the Selectboard would still be able to decide whether it goes to town vote.

Bill Rogers wanted explanation on what is a minor change or major change.

Dave Kelley explained that a 3 person vote on the Selectboard could change the zoning bylaws.

#### **Motion defeated**

Article 11: Shall the voters approve the proposed budget in the amount of **\$ 2,104,396** which contains the necessary amount required by law and proposed expenses for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023 (This budget amount includes the outside and local appropriations requests).

Wayne Young moved

Stephanie Crevati 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Naomi thanked all who worked on the budget. How does it compare to Craftsbury? How can we squeeze the budget?

Peter Romans explained that there was a significant increase. What services do you want to cut as there is no fluff in the budget?

Josh Karp explained that Greensboro has police coverage and driveway plowing as large expenses where Craftsbury does not.

George Young explained that getting rid of driveway plowing has been discussed previously and was never supported by voters.

Brett explained that the \$25,000 grant match was for the Porter Brook Bridge replacement

Peter explained that costs were up, the Porter Brook Bridge needed to be replaced and should not be delayed as it could fail. Received a \$200,000 grant and they were looking at the fund balance to help finance this. Paving costs are

up

Wayne Young thanks MacNeil and Patsy for work on Cemetery Committee

**Motion passed unanimous**

Article 12: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve moving any surplus, with the exception of the HRA line item, from the current fiscal year Highway Dept. Budget into the HERF account in the next fiscal year?

Kim moved

Mike Cassidy 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Motion passed unanimously**

Katherine Simms spoke on the different bills she was involved in and answered questions regarding those bills.

Article 13: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve having the Town Treasurer serve as collector of current taxes and set the tax due date of November 2, 2023. Taxes will be delinquent if not received in the office of the Town Treasurer by Thursday, November 2<sup>th</sup>, 2023, by 4:00 p.m.

Kim Moved

Sherral Lumsden 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Motion passed unanimously**

Article 14: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Kim asked when the town wanted to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, suggest Saturday, July 1. Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> was discussed. Judy Carpenter offered that the Bread and Puppet would not be available. Rob Brigham said Bread & Puppet makes the parade. Lynette offered Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jan Travers noted that Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> was the Celebration of Life for Judy and Andy Dales, Lynette retracted her suggestion. Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> was offered.

Straw poll showed that July 1<sup>st</sup> was more widely supported for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

Larry Lumsden asked about a reappraisal. Kim stated that it is coming but because 70% or so of the towns in Vermont were in the same boat, we may not have it for 2 or so years.

Jennifer Lucas asked what our CLA was. Kim offered it was 80%,

Anna Kehler explained about the window insert program and if interested to contact her.

Beth Meacham asked about moving Town Meeting to the Saturday before traditional Town Meeting.

*Respectfully Submitted*

\_\_\_s/ Tim Nisbet \_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Nisbet, Moderator

\_\_\_s/Kim Greaves \_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Greaves, Town Clerk