

Warning for Annual Town Meeting 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Greensboro are hereby warned and notified to meet at Highland Center for the Arts in said Town, Tuesday, March 4th at 10 a.m. to transact the following business:

Tim Nisbet opened with a Statement and Announcements, process of Roberts Rules of Order

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

Janet Long nominated Tim Nisbet

Valdine Hall moves that the nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Tim Nisbet.

Tim Nisbet elected as Moderator

Article 2: To take action on the Town of Greensboro Annual printed report.

Bobbie Nisbet moved to accept the annual printed Report, Janet Long seconded.

Bobbie opened with a response to an 11-page letter received by the Selectboard just hours before the Town Meeting addressed to voters and taxpayers. Bobbie offered that the Town Report is not perfect, but many people worked on this. She offered that the person who wrote the letter is free to say whatever he feels.

Gary Circosta offered that he wrote the letter. He was concerned that the FY24 Audited Financial Statement was not received. He felt that the Town Report was not binding because there is not a complete audit. He had concerns with the information provided.

Bridget Collier suggested we work more traditionally, not with anonymous emails. The Town Meeting Warning was required and provided.

Eric Hanson offered that last October we lost our treasurer to medical leave as she was working on the budget. Gary Circosta was contacted to help with the budget but he did not respond. The Board held many budget meetings, open to all. Eric contacted VLCT and was told that the financial audit is required but the validity of the vote at Town Meeting was binding.

Penny Bretschneider said she wished the meeting could have started on a different foot and asked for recognition of the Selectboard's hard work.

Ornella Matta-Figueroa felt that Gary's letter was an opportunity to be informed, and all needed to work together.

The motion to approve the Town Report as printed carried.

Karl Stein moved to suspend the rules and consider Article 11 forward and discuss now. Nancy Lammert seconded and the motion carried.

The Moderator read Article 11: **“Shall the registered voters of Town of Greensboro authorize a vote by Australian ballot on the question of whether to transfer ownership of Town Hall to Gilman Housing Trust, inc. DBA Rural Edge?”**

Nancy Lammert so moved, Elissa Mackin seconded.

Ellen Celnik stated that the board planned on having an Australian ballot vote on the sale of Town Hall but was told by VLCT that the Town voters needed to authorize this Australian ballot vote first.

Nancy Lammert felt that working people often can't attend Town meetings so it's a good idea to hold the RuralEdge vote by Australian ballot.

Discussion of making amendments to the Article.

Bobbie Nisbet explained that the purpose of this article was to get permission from the Town to hold an Australian Ballot vote. Amendments could be added to wording for the vote itself

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer said that it was explaining the vote method, not the exact wording of the article to be on the Australian ballot.

Bridget Collier felt the wording should end after "Australian Ballot", excluding the Rural Edge.

Zed Fatka expressed that when we have the informational meeting, we can explain the wording.

Tim Nisbet explained that this was for permission to hold the Australian ballot

Jed Feffer offered that if you vote for the article, there is an opportunity to add the amended language later.

Tim Nisbet stated that this motion is for the Australian ballot with the amendment. Right now, it is adding "another entity for housing".

Ellen Celnik stated that the board planned on having an Australian ballot vote on the sale of Town Hall but was told by VLCT that the Town voters needed to authorize the Australian ballot vote.

Bill Smith asked if we could just vote now

Tim Nisbet said we are governed by the State so we had to get authorization by the Town

Jennifer Ranz felt that there were lots of people here, they should have been asked 2 years ago

Denise Stuart asked if this will restrict us later with the wording as it is?

Karl Stein called the question.

Nancy Lammert seconded, carried.

Tim Nisbet stated that we were back to the original article

Bridget moves an amendment to Article 11: "Shall the registered voters of Town of Greensboro authorize a vote by Australian ballot on the question of whether to transfer ownership of Town Hall"

Gary Circosta stated to keep the original article, as we need it for a specific conveyance.

Dave Kelley stated that we can amend it as it stands, but not wise to keep it open.

Tim Brennan states leaving it open is not helpful.

Bridget Collier withdraws here amendment. Nancy Lammert seconds.

Tim Nisbet states we are back to the original Article to authorize Australian ballot vote.

Brent McCoy asked what is the alternative? A warned public meeting?

Tim Nisbet replied that if it passes, the Town will warn an informational meeting for selling the Town Hall to Rural Edge, with an Australian ballot vote to be set.

Karl Stein stated he was against it. Would there be a special meeting and a floor vote?

Gary Circosta asked if you want an open meeting or to authorize an Australian Ballot vote with absentee capabilities.

Nancy Lammert asked if with an Australian Ballot vote would you be able to have absentee ballots?

Valdine Hall stated she supports the Australian ballot vote but is concerned with the warning if voted now to one entity if Rural Edge is not funded. Are we locked into this.

Eric Hanson said that Rural Edge needed the voters to authorize this as they cannot commit to raising funds until this conveyance if voted on. It will take 1 year to get the funding.

Bill Rogers asked with we could make it a general authorization for Australian ballot vote so we do not need to do this in the future?

Tim Nisbet stated that the State says no, not now, but we could authorize this in the future.

Rosann Hickey said she was confused. If we vote yes, what is the result, if we vote no what is the result?

Tim stated that if the vote was yes, we would hold an Australian ballot vote. If the vote was no, we are not authorizing an Australian ballot vote.

Mike Lammert moves to Call the Question

Article 11 carried.

Greensboro Award

While the break, the Board awarded the Greensboro Award to Jennifer Lucas and John Schweizer for all their volunteerism over the years, and for stepping up to help with the FY26 budget this past fall.

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer moved to suspend the rules and consider Article 9 at this time.

Denise Stewart seconded the motion. With 134 votes cast, 2/3 (91 votes) were required to pass.

Vote was yes: 81

No: 63

This motion failed with 71 in favor, 63 opposed.

Article 3: To elect town officers and school district officers required by law and one or more library trustees:

Office	Term	Elected
Select Board	3 yrs	Tim Brennan
Select Board	2 yrs	Michael Metcalf
Select Board *	1 yr	Judy Carpenter
Cemetery Commissioner	3 yrs	Wayne Young
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Valerie Carter
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Gaylin Fisher
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 yrs	Mike Cloutier
Hazen Union School Director	3 yrs	Jan Terwiesch

*1 year remaining of a 3-year term

DISCUSSION REGARDING 3 YEAR POSITION:

Jane Woodruff nominated Tim Brennan

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer nominated Christian Holland

Elissa Mackin nominated Davis Barnet

Jennifer Ranz nominated Bill Chidsey

The candidates introduced themselves and answered questions.

Denise Stuart asked where the candidates stood on voter accessibility, i.e. Australian Ballot?

Davis Barnett – yes

Tim Brennan – yes

Christian Holland – yes

Bill Chidsey – yes

Mateo Kehler asked where the candidates involved in the “secret group hiring the lawyer with threats? Who were on the secret committee

Davis Barnett – did not answer

Christian Holland – no

Tim Brennan – no

Bill Chidsey – no

Carol Fairbank welcomed all and stated that this discussion on the Rural Edge questions has been since 2018, meetings advertised but there was lack of engagement.

Andy Hunt felt that the meeting should be in the evenings and open to the public with zoom. If people do not attend, do not complain.

Mike Lammert stated to Call the Question and requested a ballot vote

This was a paper ballot vote: Results:

181 ballots cast, 1 spoiled ballot. 91 votes needed to elect.

1 spoiled ballot

Tim Brennan received 132 ballots

Bill Chidsey received 10 ballots

Davis Barnett received 12 ballots

Christian Holland received 26 ballots

Tim Brennan was elected to the 3-year Selectboard term

Break for lunch

Town Meeting resumed at 1:00 pm.

LeAnn Harple, our State Representative spoke about the further consolidation of the state education system proposed by Gov. Scott which could result in closing of small schools. Rep. Harple also spoke about her first bill introduced regarding wake boats on lakes, such as Caspian. Rep. Harple suggested that residents write to their legislatures in Montpelier with their concerns.

Two-year selectboard position

Larry Lumsden nominated Mike Metcalf

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer nominated Christian Holland

A ballot vote was requested. 151 ballots were cast, 76 votes needed to elect.

Mike Metcalf received 92, Christian Holland received 69.

Mike Metcalf was elected.

One-year selectboard position (one year remaining of a 3-year term)

Carolyn Kehler nominated Judy Carpenter

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer nominated Christian Holland

Mike Lammert nominated Bill Chidsey.

A ballot vote was requested. 145 ballots were cast, 1 spoiled so 73 votes needed to elect.

Judy Carpenter received 73, Christian Holland received 63, Bill Chidsey received 8 votes.

Judy Carpenter was elected.

Cemetery Commission.

MacNeil nominated Wayne Young. George Young moved nomination cease and Clerk cast one ballot for Wayne.

Wayne Young elected.

Wayne Young spoke of the need for volunteer people to help Patsy Mercier to sell lots as she is the key to the cemetery's operation and will need someone to take over when she retires. Patsy gets a yearly stipend, though the volunteer would not receive one.

Library Trustees for 3 years:

Jennifer Lucas nominated Valerie Carter and Gaylin Fisher, long term volunteers.

George Young moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast 1 ballot for both nominees. Motion carried.

Valerie Carter and Gaylin Fisher were elected.

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Janet Long nominated Michel Cloutier.
 George Young moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast 1 ballot for Mike Cloutier. Motion Carried.
 Mike Cloutier was elected.

Hazen Union School Director

MacNeil nominated Jan Terwiesch
 George Young moved the nominations cease and the clerk cast 1 ballot for Jan Terwiesch
 Article carried.
 Jan Terwiesch was elected

Article 4: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro appropriate the following sums to the agencies listed below?

APPROPRIATIONS	
NEK Council on Aging	\$1,000
AWARE	\$2,000
Cabot Neighbors In Action	\$500
Caledonia Home Health	\$1,400
Clarina Howard Nichols Ctr	\$1,500
Craftsbury Community Care	\$10,500
Craftsbury Saplings	\$500
4 Seasons of Early Learning	\$9,500
Green Up	\$100
Greensboro Nursing Home	\$23,000
Hardwick Area Food Pantry	\$2,500
Lamoille Family Center	\$1,000
NEK Human Services	\$1,524
NEK Learning Services	\$300
N. Country Animal League	\$600
Orleans Co. His. Society	\$700
Orleans Co. Citizens Advocacy	\$800
NECKA Comm. Justice	\$300
Red Cross	\$250
Rural Community Trans.	\$900
Salvation Farms	\$750
Vt. Ctr for Independent Living	\$210
WonderArts	\$3,500
VCRD	\$500
Hardwick Area Rescue Squad	\$31,885
	\$ 95,719

Bridget Collier moved to accept Article 4 as presented, Mike Metcalf second.

Carol Fairbank spoke to Cabot Neighbors in Action, asked for an increase to \$1,000. Penny Bretschneider offered that Cabot sends boxes of food two Wednesdays a month to about 55 individuals at the Greensboro United Church. **\$500 increase approved**, total Appropriation \$1,000.

Bobbie Nisbet spoke to the Craftsbury Community Care Center expressing that Medicaid may be cut so we need to support excellent care for our seniors.

Liz Steel stated that we need financials on these entities.

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer wanted to know who evaluates each request. It should not require all taxpayers to support these entities

Alice Fleer advocated for the Food Pantry as it serves many people in the area, Greensboro included. She moved for an **increase in the appropriation of \$1,000**. Motion Carried, total Appropriation \$3,500.

Liz Steel inquired as to who can speak to the NEK Human Services. Carol Fairbank offered her son is a recipient of this, it offers food, medical, recovery and job services to individuals.

Virginia Lapierre spoke to the Rural Arts. It offers classes for elderly, the maker space for children in the church, and summer camp with approximately 35% of our population is served.

Maya and Brent McCoy spoke to the support needed for the Rescue Squad, an independent non-profit ambulance with approximately 50 volunteers.

Tim noted that the increase in the Appropriations is \$1,500:
\$1,000 for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry and \$500 for the Cabot Neighbors in Action

Article 4 carried as amended

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve the following Special Appropriation requests listed below?

Greensboro Conservation	\$3,000
Greensboro Free Library	\$ 44,000
Greensboro Historical Society	\$ 6,000
Caspian Lake Beach	\$4,750
Greensboro Recreation Committee	\$2,000
Greensboro Swim Program	\$ 4,000

Chris Steel spoke to the Conservation Committee explaining about programs for the Porter Brook Trail this year.

Jennifer Lucas spoke to the Library's Appropriation request of \$44,000. Donations are down from last year and there is a 3.5% pay increase. There are 20 volunteers. Mimi Benedict thanked Jennifer for her contributions at the library.

BJ Gray spoke to the Historical Society's appropriation, explaining that they are preserving the Town's history with the help of many volunteers.

Liz Baum spoke to the Recreation Committee, explaining that the swim program was a huge success, with the support of the Greensboro Association.

Article 5 passed unanimously.

Article 6: Shall the voters approve the proposed town expenditures budget in the amount of \$2,386,953 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. This amount contains the necessary amounts required by law and includes the appropriations listed in Article 4 and Article 5 above with amendments.

Liz Steel said the Website Task Force recommends that the town spend \$7,500 on website improvements.

Tim said the new budget total reflects the \$1,500 increase approved earlier in Article 4.

Mike Metcalf called the question. The article passed with a few votes against and the rest in favor.

Article carried by voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the voters approve transferring the surplus, if any, from the current fiscal year (2025) Highway Fund into the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund (HERF)?

Gary Circosta suggested this Article be voted down because the FY24 audit is not complete..

Eric Hanson stated this was to support the highway and fire department equipment

Josh Karp offered that the Town will be getting reimbursed by FEMA for the road crew labor, town equipment and our gravel, The final amount is yet to be determined but it appears to be about \$600k.

Bridget Collier stated that the road money cannot be co-mingled with the rest of the budget

Larry Lumsden called the question

Article 7 carried with 46 in favor, 34 against.

Article 8: Shall the town change the day of its annual town meeting to the third day preceding the first Tuesday in March pursuant to 17 V.S.A §2640(b)?

Beth Meachem moved, George Young Seconded

Beth Meachem said many people have to work on Town Meeting Day and more may attend if held on a different day. Absentee ballots could also be used.

Megan Whelan-Stotco stated she is in favor of town meeting on the weekend to open it up to more voters.

Ellen Celnik clarified that if it is moved to Saturday, the Australian Ballot votes will still need to be on the first Tuesday of March.

Stefanie Crevati stated that moving to Saturday not the answer. Children have obligations and also many people work on weekends.

Karl Stein said while he is in favor of trying this out, he knows of towns that have tried this and then moved back.

Tracy Collier agreed that many people work on Saturdays and said she's concerned that changing the day would lower the turnout.

Larry Lumsden called the question. A ballot vote was requested. With 98 ballots cast and one spoiled ballot, 49 votes required to pass. The Article failed with 53 votes against and 44 votes in favor. Town Meeting will remain the first Tuesday in March.

Article 9: Shall the registered voters of Greensboro, Vermont, elect its town officers by Australian Ballot?

Liz Steel so moved, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer seconded.

Liz spoke that ballot votes take too much time during the meeting and more voters may vote using Australian Ballot.

Bill Rogers spoke in support of the article but wondered how the process would work if there's a four-way race for a town officer.

Mateo Kehler offered that it would be the beginning of the end of town meeting. The way we do it is not efficient, but it is real democracy. Many won't come to Town Meeting without the races for town officers.

David Kelly thanked Liz for her work to strengthen democracy but said face to face debate is the ideal and the Australian Ballot may not be the easy answer you think it is.

Elissa Mackin said those here today are a privileged group, moving to Australian Ballot doesn't take away the opportunity for discussion with your neighbors.

The question was called. With 94 votes cast, 48 votes needed to pass. The Article passed with 51 votes in favor and 43 against.

Town officers will be elected by Australian Ballot moving forward.

Article 10: 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 6, 2025. Taxes will be delinquent if not received in the office of the Town Treasurer by Thursday, November 6, 2025, by 4:00 p.m.

Bridget Collier moved, Mike Metcalf seconded.

Article 10 passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Article 11: **ARTICLE MOVED TO EARLIER IN THE MEETING:** Shall the registered voters of Town of Greensboro authorize a vote by Australian ballot on the question of whether to transfer ownership of Town Hall to Gilman Housing Trust, Inc. DBA Rural Edge?

Article 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to hold the Funky Fourth celebration on Saturday, July 5th.

Bill Rogers suggested at the next Town Meeting, an article is included that covers the sale of any town property.

Bridget Collier asked for a round of applause for the outgoing selectboard members.

Jennifer Lucas thanked the outgoing library trustees for their service and hard work.

Mateo Kehler moved to adjourn. Passed unanimously

Adjourned at 5:10 pm

Dated at Greensboro this April 30, 2025



Tim Nisbet, Moderator



Kim Greaves, Town Clerk