

**TMMA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 9, 2009**

Marsha Baker, TMMA Chair, called the TMMA Executive Committee Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present (e.g., at least 9 members, representing 5 separate Precincts). On this date, 16 TMMA Members were present.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Precinct #</u>
Nancy Adler, Chair	1
Joel Adler, Vice Chair	1
Joe Pato, Chair	2
Barry Orenstein, TMMA Vice Chair	2
Rita Goldberg, Vice Chair	2
Loren Wood, Chair	3
Vincent Pisegna, Chair	4
Andy Friedlich, Clerk	5
Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti, TMMA Clerk	5
Edith Sandy, Chair	6
Bebe Fallick, Vice Chair	6
David L. Kaufman, TMMA Communications Officer	6
Fred Martin, Chair	7
Marsha Baker, TMMA Chair	7
Diane Biglow, Chair	8
Vicki Blier, TMMA List Moderator	9

Marsha began the meeting by making some general announcements. She said that Jeanne Krieger and Mark Sandeen will come to the January TMMA Executive Meeting to discuss a resolution to adopt the Energy Stretch Code. Adoption of this Code would enable Lexington to become a "Green Community" and allow the Town to become eligible for state funding.

Marsha also announced the Annual Town Meeting ("Annual TM") start date, the Warrant Close ("Warrant") date and the date of the annual Town election. After Marsha's announcements, a general discussion ensued regarding items that may (or may not) become part of the Warrant (e.g., some zoning Articles, the Monroe Center for the Arts, and requests for traffic mitigation (e.g., South Lexington crosswalk), etc.

In addition, Marsha said that the League of Women Voters ("LWV") candidates' election night forum will be held in Cary Hall and that the Precinct meetings will be held in the Town Office Building as well as some rooms in Cary Hall because there isn't room for all the Precincts to meet in Cary Hall. LexMedia will also broadcast these meetings.

A general discussion ensued regarding the upcoming TM Member elections and Marsha said she will check with the Town Clerk to see which TM Members have (or have not) returned nomination papers for re-election and will also work with others to encourage new participants to run for TM. In addition, it was suggested that a notice be placed on the TMMA website so current TM Members could indicate whether they intend to run for re-election and/or have the Moderator make a public comment for publication in the Lexington Minuteman re: TM Precinct openings in Town.

The group also discussed the most recent Fall Town Meeting ("Fall TM"). It was generally agreed that should the need arise, future Precinct Chairs can contact Precinct members when TM is in session to discuss upcoming Articles, presentations, attendance for quorum purposes, etc.

#### Vice-Chair

Marsha discussed Barry's new role as TMMA Vice Chair. She said Barry will act as a liaison to all TMMA sub-Committees (e.g., keeping the sub-Committees on track, etc.) and act in an advisory capacity. Marsha also said Barry's role will highlight his many talents, including his educational and professional background, and that Barry will be a useful resource to the TMMA sub-Committees.

#### TMMA Treasurer's Report:

Colin Hamilton, TMMA Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. Barry said he spoke with Colin and that Colin told him that the Treasurer's Report is essentially unchanged from the last Treasurer's Report he presented to the Committee. Marsha also informed the Committee that she has not yet presented any costs associated with the Fall TM to Colin. Since there was no official Treasurer's Report for the Committee to accept, no Motion was moved.

#### TMMA Clerk's Report:

Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti, TMMA Clerk, presented the November 9, 2009 Minutes for approval. Upon Motion made and seconded, the Clerk's Minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

#### TMMA Vote Recording Committee:

Marsha asked Joe Pato to present the Committee's report. Before Joe began, Marsha asked that anyone wishing to speak be recognized by the Chair before making his/her comments.

Joe began his presentation by saying that he will bring two (2) motions forward tonight with respect to the Vote Recording Trial ("Voting Trial"). Joe spoke generally about the Voting Trial and provided some statistics including the overall TM participation rate and the percentage rate for those who participated. He also said that he received a number of comments (running 13 – 1) strongly supporting the Voting Trial.

Joe also discussed the overall time allocated to the Voting Trial's design, implementation, return and tallying of the Vote Recording form. He said that factoring out the design stage time, the largest time task faced by the Committee was entering and verifying the voting information on the returned forms (e.g., it was a 3 person team effort to enter the information). Joe said this combined effort worked very well and, going forward, should be retained.

In addition, Joe also discussed the actual voting forms that were returned. He said that no one "over voted" and if there was any question associated with a submitted ballot, it was returned to the individual TM Member for clarification and verification of the information entered on the voting form. Joe said that the two (2) automated e-mails associated with the Voting Recording forms also worked extremely well and that only 5 individuals needed to be contacted by phone.

Joe said that for those people who do not receive TMMA e-mail, the participation rate was 25%; for people who are engaged with TMMA via an e-mail address, the participation rate was 78%. He also provided attendance statistics for TM Members who receive TMMA e-mail (95.5%) versus those TM Members who do not (85%). Joe concluded his presentation by stating that the Committee will make specific recommendations going forward regarding the Voting Trial before Annual TM begins.

After Joe's presentation, a general discussion ensued. Some questions raised during the discussion included: (i) why is TMMA doing a Voting Trial?; (ii) is it worthwhile?; (iii) is it a lifelong record?; (iv) is it for information purposes only?; (v) is it for community purposes?; and (vi) was there any voter confusion associated with the voting directions from the Town Moderator at the Fall TM?

In addition, the group discussed the reliability of the voting data since it is a self-reporting system and issues associated with website posting and Minuteman publication of the voting information. The group was also reminded that the Voting Trail and its associated information will never be an "official document" since it is produced by the TMMA and that any publication of this information will need to bear a disclaimer to that effect.

During the foregoing discussion, Joe moved two Motions:

*Motion 1: To post the results of the Voting Trial on the TMMA website as a PDF file.*

The above Motion was seconded. The Motion was adopted, with one “No” vote and one “Abstention”.

*Motion 2: To continue the Vote Recording Trial at the Annual Town Meeting and that the Vote Recording Committee will make specific future recommendations for adoption with respect to the Vote Recording Trial before the Annual Town Meeting.*

The above Motion was seconded. The Motion was adopted, with one “Opposed”.

TMMA “Green Committee” Report:

The Committee reported that the e-mail subscription “opt-out” option for the TM “Brown Book” worked well and was viewed favorably. The Committee members also said that other Town Committees (e.g., the Appropriations Committee) have indicated their interest in adopting the process too.

Marsha asked the Committee members to report back on how the e-mail subscription “opt-out” option will work for the upcoming Annual TM. Some members suggested additional ways this information can be posted on the TMMA website and that a Brown Book reference archive section would also be useful. Members were reminded to keep the new State Records Retention Rules and Ethics Law changes in mind when discussing and implementing the “opt-out” provision with respect to the Annual TM information.

TMMA Community Outreach Committee:

Marsha asked for the Committee’s Report. Andy Friedlich, Co-Chair, began the presentation by discussing the Committee’s activities to date, including the Committee’s presentation to the Newcomers Club, the February 2010 LWV “First Friday” presentation (“LVW presentation”) and possible Committee business cards. Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti, Co-Chair, continued the presentation by discussing the Committee’s recent meetings (there have been 2 to date) and how the Committee plans to continue its outreach efforts within the Community.

With respect to the February 2010 LWV presentation, Nancy said Barry has agreed to write the publicity information blurb regarding the Committee’s presentation and that Andy and other members of the Committee have agreed to work together on the formal LWV presentation. Marsha suggested that Deb Mauger could be helpful in reviewing the draft presentation material before the Committee finalizes it.

Miscellaneous:

The group also discussed (i) the new start time for the Annual TM in the Spring (e.g., 7:45 p.m.); (ii) the geographical location and logistics associated with the placement of the TM Sign that Barry created and that the Executive Committee previously approved (Barry will follow-up with Selectman Norman Cohen); (iii) a reminder to use the Safe Mass. Ave “flags” when crossing Mass. Ave.; (iv) where the former Moderator’s picture will hang in Cary Hall; (v) asking the current Moderator to increase her use of roll call votes when the vote requires a 2/3 majority; (vi) reminding TM members in your Precinct to stand up when someone “doubts” the vote (e.g., attaining the 25 minimum TM Members needed to call a roll call vote); (vii) a potential new cell tower in Town; (viii) the length of time zoning Warrant Article presentations are allowed; and (ix) scheduling fewer TMMA Warrant Article Information sessions because attendance is historically low and instead utilize on-line e-mail to generate a discussion.

Marsha said that as soon as the Warrant Article information is available, she will send it out to members and ask for write-up volunteers. She also said Andy will coordinate all Warrant information for the Annual TM and Marsha commended both Joe and Andy for the job they did with respect to the Fall TM Warrant. Andy requested that Marsha ask Selectman Norman Cohen to have all “Citizen Sponsored” Articles to TMMA by the first week in January.

Before adjourning, Marsha asked that any ideas for future TMMA Executive Committee meetings be sent to her. She also reminded the members that the next TMMA meeting will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Room G15 in the Town Hall and Andy said that “a day without e-mails is like a day without sunshine.”

Upon Motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.