

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes for December 9, 2020
Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

Attendees:	Precinct	Attendees:	Precinct
Ben Moroze*	7 TMMA Chair	Andy Friedlich*	5
Vineeta Kumar*	3 TMMA Treasurer	Anil Ahuja*	5
Brielle Meade	8 TMMA Clerk	Steve Kaufman*	5
Vicki Blier	9 TMMA List Moderator	Vinita Verma*	6
Bob Avallone	8 TMMA Webmaster	Yu Wu*	8
Avram Baskin*	2	Jim Osten*	8
Ingrid Klimoff*	2	Betty Gau*	8
Jonathan Suber	2	Tom Shiple*	9
David Kaufman*	3	Suzanne Lau*	9

*denotes Precinct Officers

The Chair Ben Moroze called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM as quorum was confirmed.

I. Chair's Report—

- Ben Moroze mentioned that we had a successful Special Town Meeting and asked Andy Friedlich to talk a little about the 2021 officer nominating process. Andy explained the process and agreed to be on the nominating committee and asked for volunteers to join him. Anil Ahuja and Jonathan Suber both volunteered to be on the nominating committee.
- Ben also mentioned the option of inviting Deborah Brown to come to the next Executive Committee to talk about how Virtual Town Meeting went. The group agreed this would be good and that Madame Moderator usually does come once a year to debrief Town Meeting. The group agreed to include a discussion about potential continuation of virtual participation in Town Meeting if/when Deborah joins. Ben will check with Deborah to see if she can join the January meeting.
- Ben also brought up recognizing Joe Pato for his extra work in preparing Virtual Town Meeting. Bob Avallone suggests Joe Pato would be happy with a simple written/verbal acknowledgement instead of making a big deal; Betty Gau suggested something small and humorous (e.g., “Geek of the Year” award); Tom Shiple suggested a simple paperweight-type item; Vicki Blier suggested something like a standard TM anniversary pin with a pair of headphones or other embellishment. The group liked the idea of the pin the best; Ben made a motion to spend up to \$50 to create an object to recognize Joe Pato; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

II. Clerk's Report—Brielle Meade submitted the Draft Minutes for the September 9, 2020 meeting for approval. After one correction, the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report—

- Vineeta Kumar shared her screen and described the report and one change she made to rectify an issue in the cash balance. The current balance is \$2,996.18. The only expense was for printing the Information Book for Special Town Meeting and there were dues collected. The Treasurer's Report (found on page 4 below) was moved, seconded and unanimously accepted.

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes for December 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

- Vineeta also presented details of the status of TMMA dues payment, including how many members have paid and have not paid by Precinct. About 57 percent of members have paid dues for this year. Vicki Blier suggested that this year is very different and that we may want to just end our collection period as is, and also suggests that at-large TM members should not be asked to pay dues. Andy Friedlich made a motion to not ask or collect dues from at-large TM members; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Vineeta will send the list of members who have not paid to the Precinct chairs along with a draft email with one last request for payment, to be sent only to members who have not yet paid.
- IV. Webmaster Report—Bob Avallone indicated that the method for displaying the member directory has been updated by Joe Pato and the TMMA website now simply links to Joe’s member webpage. Bob also mentioned that a few members have changed this year and he has kept the website and directory up to date with those changes. Tom Shiple asked whether the TM member votes for fall Town Meeting are posted yet; Bob said there is not a direct/single link posted by the Town yet like in previous years, but he will investigate it some more to present it on the TMMA website.
- V. Email List Moderator Report—
- Vicki Blier discussed the current policy of who is permitted to be a member of the TMMA list. During Special Town Meeting discussion on the list, there was a complicated zoning motion that was sponsored by someone on a committee (Charles Hornig) but not sponsored by the committee itself. Charles asked Vicki ahead of the list opening if he could remain on the list and Vicki OK’d the request. However, the issue was raised whether this was fair to other citizen sponsors of articles who don’t have the same access to the list as Charles was afforded. Vicki would like guidance from the Executive Committee on how to handle this situation in the future. She is not sure what the best policy would be as each situation is unique and a blanket policy may not be appropriate. Andy Friedlich wondered if Vicki would be amenable to allowing each article sponsor to have access to the list during TM season. Avram Baskin agreed that each citizen sponsor should have access in order to provide equal access, and in this particular instance, Charles already had access to another forum to present his information due to his membership on the Planning Board. Avram believes that either all citizen sponsors should have access, or none should. Tom Shiple agreed with this concept. Bob Avallone added that citizen sponsors should be allowed to respond to the list to answer questions, but not to advocate for their article. Vicki proposed a process where each citizen sponsor can join the list temporarily if and when their article comes up on the list for discussion, to answer questions. They would do this by working with their TM member liaison who would get in touch with Vicki to start the process of adding them to the list. The group discussed whether it makes sense to have the citizen work with their TM member liaison or with TMMA/Vicki directly. The group discussed what the parameters for citizen participation would be. Andy made a motion that article sponsors be offered access to the TMMA email list temporarily to make an initial statement and to answer any questions that come up or provide new information that comes up about their article; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
 - Vicki also requested guidance on how to handle situations of personal attacks of one member by another. There were posts this TM season by a TM member that were very

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes for December 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

critical of the Planning Board, and in some instances, Vicki felt they crossed the fine line between democratic criticism and personal attacks. At least one Planning Board member contacted Vicki about the ongoing attacks they felt were coming from the member. Vicki did moderate the discussion and allowed most of it to continue as criticism of policy is allowed and is okay, but she feels she may have missed a comment or two from the member that were inappropriate. She asks the Executive Committee to help her in these situations to make sure her judgement as moderator on the situation seems appropriate. Avram Baskin felt the member's comments were out of line and that the TMMA list should have higher standards of discussion; Tom Shiple agreed that the list does not seem like the appropriate forum for the member's comments. David Kaufman mentioned that the TM Moderator's direction should apply to the TMMA email list generally too: that one should speak to the issue and not to the person. The group agreed Vicki generally does a good job moderating the discussion and will chime in if necessary.

- VI. Other Business—Tom Shiple mentioned that he and Vicki had sent an email out about increasing communication with constituents and that their precinct is going to try and start a group to increase communication. He wondered if any other precincts had something similar. Betty Gau and Brielle Meade mentioned that Precinct 8 has both a Facebook group and a Google group that are relatively successful and participation ebbs and flows depending on what topics are coming up and are of interest. Avram Baskin talked about a Liberty Heights group he is a member of and some of the barriers of participation. David Kaufman mentioned that there are a number of neighborhood associations and he thinks getting those people to participate in yet another interest group will be an uphill. Andy Friedlich summed it up – TMMA has been trying for years to come up with ways to engage with our constituents better, and any effort like what Tom and Vicki are planning is appreciated.
- VII. Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM. Next Meeting will be on January 13, 2021 at 7:30 PM conducted online via Zoom.

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes for December 9, 2020
Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

	TMMA		
	Treasurer's report		
	30-Nov-20		
	Cash Balance - beginning (9/30/2020)		\$2,895.18
	Income		
	TMMA Dues	\$1,165.00	
	Total Income		\$1,165.00
	Expenses		
	Annual Town Meeting		
	Printing – Info book	\$857.00	
	Printing – new TMM packet	\$121.00	
	Special Town Meeting		
	Printing – Info book STM-2 and STM-3	\$116.00	
	Total Expenses		\$1,094.00
	Income less expenses		\$71.00
	Cash Balance - ending (11/30/2020)		\$2,966.18
<i>Please note that there was no activity from April to September 2020</i>			