

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting
 Minutes for December 14, 2022
 Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

Attendees:	Precinct	Attendees:	Precinct
Vineeta Kumar	9	Barbara Katzenberg*	2
Bridger McGaw	6	Ed Dolan*	3
Brielle Meade	8	Cindy Arens*	3
Vicki Blier	9	Andy Friedlich*	5
Bob Avallone	8	Innessa Manning*	6
Valerie Overton*	1	Eran Strod*	6
Noah Michelson*	1	Mark Anderson*	9

*denotes Precinct Officers

The Chair Vineeta Kumar called the meeting to order at 7:32pm as quorum was confirmed.

I. Officer Reports

Chair's Report—Vineeta Kumar went over the agenda to start the meeting. She thanked Valerie Overton, Vicki Blier, and the rest of the TMMA Connect! committee for organizing the December event.

Clerk's Report—Brielle Meade submitted the Draft Minutes for the October 12, 2022 meeting for approval. After one correction, the minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report—Bridger McGaw reported two expenses: website hosting fees and the TMMA Connect! moderator/speaker fees. The current balance is \$3,124.83 The Treasurer's Report (found on page 4 below) was moved, seconded and unanimously accepted.

Website Manager's Report— Bob Avallone reported that he updated broken links to the Town website and updated some member information. He requests that folks let him know if they find additional links that need to be corrected.

Email List Moderator's Report—Vicki Blier had no new information to report. She is always interested in receiving comments and suggestions.

II. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)/TMMA Connect! Updates, Discussion, and DEI Next Steps

Updates—Vicki Blier reported that 66 people RSVP'd for the event. Valerie Overton summarized the event: Rachel Glisper talked through basic DEI principles and questions TM members should ask themselves when any article comes before TM. There were a couple breakout sessions, one focused on group similarities and another consisted of discussions on hypothetical articles. The feedback on the event Valerie received was overwhelmingly positive.

Discussion—The group shared our observations and takes on how we take what we learn and apply it going forward.

- Members acknowledged that there will be challenging pressures and tradeoffs between DEI goals and financial measures or climate or other policy goals.

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting

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- Not all actions will be attended and engaged by all of Town Meeting. We can identify opportunities to continue to share these learnings and perspectives with members.
- The Trainer acknowledged that the TMMA has advocated for applying our resolution already in planning/zoning article changes and in hosting the training. Continuing the educational work in sharing the information with TM members through other information sharing opportunities may be helpful. TMMA could also share the resolution and ensure article proponents know that this resolution, and other non-binding ones, are also goals of ours as a community.
- Since the majority of articles come from the Town and Select Board, we may want to look at how the DEI Officer for the Town plays a role more formally in the development of these articles.
- Members continued to think about how the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives could be considered as a model for how we think about applying an equally impactful way on DEI matters in any article.

Next Steps—

- TMMA will get the presentation PowerPoint from Rachel to share with all TM members on the TMMA website.
- Vineeta Kumar will do a write-up on the evening to share with TM members.
- Vicki, Valerie, and the committee will conduct an attendee survey to gather more feedback.

III. **Information Sessions – Purpose and Process for ATM and STM**

Discussion on this topic was combined with IV and V below. The group agrees that information sessions are an important component of disseminating information to TM members and will discuss process further at the next meeting.

IV. **Article Material Availability – Process and Improvements**

The group discussed how to improve the process of information sharing for Town Meeting.

- Andy Friedlich: the information needs to be posted much sooner.
- Vicki Blier: if we are going to ask the Town Manager/Select Board about getting info on the website sooner and improving the information sharing process, having a survey of membership backing up our requests would be good.
- Noah Michelson: no matter what we decide, he finds that having all pieces associated with each article in one place is the easiest way to digest all the information.
- Bridger McGaw: the current website includes a section for each article, but it does not include any of the past information about the decisions the Town took to get to the article as is. There are a lot of critical memoranda and information that the Select Board gets in their packets, and there is a lot of back and forth before articles come to Town Meeting;

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this should be available to TM members. All of this is available somewhere on the website, but it is impossible to find. It would be relatively easy to fix this with tags and better content management.

- Cindy Arens: agrees with Bridger, and some articles will require more background than others. She is concerned if we ask Town staff to provide information in this format, they may not have time.
- Andy Friedlich: suggests all questions that are asked through the website, along with the answers provided by Town staff, should be available on the website in a timely manner.

Bridger has put together a proposal shared over email before the meeting. Everyone should take the time to read this and discuss it over this coming month. Vineeta Kumar will share it again as a Google document so that folks can edit and comment in the document directly. The group will discuss further and finalize next meeting.

V. **TMMA Survey Sub-Committee Updates**

Andy Friedlich suggested the survey focus on both the Warrant Information Report and about what types of information TM members would like covered in Information Sessions. The committee will provide updates to the full Executive Committee on progress via email and have a draft ready for the next meeting.

VI. **Other Business**

Nominating Committee—Vineeta Kumar requested volunteers to be on the Executive Officer Nominating Committee. Andy Friedlich volunteered to lead, and Vineeta Kumar will send an email to the Executive Committee to ask for two additional volunteers.

Citizens Academy—Vineeta Kumar noted that TMMA was not invited to present at Citizens Academy as in the past. TMMA is usually invited to present about Town Meeting, how to become a member, what TMMA does, and to encourage participants to get involved with Town Meeting. Andy Friedlich mentioned that this was the decision of the Town Manager. Vicki Blier suggested that a group led by Vineeta request a meeting with the Town Manager to discuss the issue of how we can work together. Bridger McGaw added that the meeting should be between TMMA Executive Committee and the Select Board (as opposed to with the Town Manager) since the Town Manager works for the Select Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm. Next Meeting will be on January 11, 2023 at 7:30 PM conducted online via Zoom or in the Estabrook Room at Cary Memorial Building.

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TMMA			
Treasurer's Report			
12-December-22			
Cash Balance - beginning (10/12/2022)			\$5,094.21
Income			
	TMMA dues (PayPal)		\$0
	TMMA dues (cash/check)		\$0
Total Income			\$0
Expenses			
	Internet fees (IONOS via Bob Avallone)		\$219.38
	DEI TMMA Connect! Event – Crossroads LLC		\$1,750.00
Total Expenses			\$1,969.38
Income less expenses			(\$1,969.38)
Cash Balance - ending (12/12/2022)			\$3,124.83