

TMMA Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes for January 11, 2023

Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

Attendees:	Precinct	Attendees:	Precinct
Betty Gau	8 TMMA Vice-Chair	Ed Dolan*	3
Bridger McGaw	6 TMMA Treasurer	Cindy Arens*	3
Brielle Meade	8 TMMA Clerk	Andy Friedlich*	5
Vicki Blier	9 TMMA List Moderator	Salvador Jaramillo*	5
Bob Avallone	8 TMMA Webmaster	Eran Strod*	6
Valerie Overton*	1	Jim Osten*	8
Barbara Katzenberg*	2	Scott Burson*	9

*denotes Precinct Officers

The Vice Chair Betty Gau called the meeting to order at 7:32pm as quorum was confirmed.

I. Officer Reports

Chair's Report—Betty Gau went over the agenda to start the meeting.

Clerk's Report—Brielle Meade did not submit the Draft Minutes for the December 14, 2022 meeting for approval until meeting time. The minutes will be approved next month.

Treasurer's Report—Bridger McGaw reported one expense for the Lexington Depot rental for the TMMA Connect! event. The current balance is \$2,974.83 The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and unanimously accepted. Next month the group will vote on finalizing dues amount for 2023.

Website Manager's Report— Bob Avallone had nothing new to report. He requests that folks let him know if they find anything that needs to be updated on the website.

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

II. Nominating Committee

Andy Friedlich previously volunteered to lead the TMMA Executive Officers Nominating Committee, and there are two additional open seats to be filled. Scott Burson and Jim Osten volunteered to fill out the committee.

III. Improving Town Government Information Sharing

The group discussed the memo Bridger McGaw shared over email for improving information sharing. Folks were asked to make comments and suggestions before the meeting; Bridger incorporated the edits people shared ahead of time. The memo, addressed to Jill Hai and the Select Board, provides a bulleted list of the main ideas for consideration:

1. Continue and Expand Use of Town Meeting Webpage for Educating TMMs

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2. Begin Tagging Supporting Source Material provided to Boards/Committees for ATM Webpage
3. Revise Internal Town Processes to Ensure Transparent Posting to ATM Landing Page
4. Create formal Policy Guidance for posting Citizen's Article information on ATM Webpage
5. Add Web functionality to allow for Printing of Supporting materials by Article

After Vicki Blier suggested that we could discuss this with Sean Dugan (Public Information Officer) before addressing the Select Board, the group agreed that reaching out to both the Select Board and Sean Dugan is the next step. In this instance, the Select Board would be in charge of directing staff time and making policy to enact these changes and it also makes sense to inform the Public Information Officer (PIO) who would likely be implementing some of the technical changes.

Other suggestions and discussion points included:

- Clarify that it is very important that questions are answered in a timely manner and that all questions and answers are posted to the website so everyone can read them (not just the original poster).
- Vicki Blier asked if we could simplify the document to specific action items and wondered if the memo had too much of an adversarial tone. It would be better if we are clear that we want to work with the Town and do this together.
- Other members thought the memo did include specific steps to implement and while it also provides a background of what is not working for TMMs and things the Town can do better, it is not overly adversarial.
- Andy Friedlich commented there may be pushback from the Town because TMMs are not accessing the material that is already being posted (e.g., the videos are only watched by about 40 people on average). The Town, however, can only get statistics on video views and not document views, and many members are only viewing the PDFs since the videos are simply the presenter reading off the PDF slides.

Cindy Arens made a motion that we give Bridger the go ahead to make edits as discussed and move forward with sending it to Jill Hai in the next week or two. The motion was moved and unanimously approved.

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

Andy Friedlich shared the link to the draft membership survey this week. The group walked through the online version and made suggestions and edits. Andy, Brielle Meade, and Barbara Katzenberg will finalize the questions and prepare the survey to go out to membership.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. Next Meeting will be on February 8, 2023 at 7:30 PM conducted online via Zoom or in the Estabrook Room at Cary Memorial Building.