

**Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2014**

Present: Susan Clark, Ron Krauth, Tim Murphy, Janette Schaffer, Barb Whitchurch, Greg Whitchurch

**1) Town Meeting Debrief**

**A) Evaluations**

Susan circulated the evaluation forms we received from town meeting. They were generally positive, with the following specific comments of note:

*Most effective useful elements of town meeting:*

--Thank you for being consistent and persistent about using the microphones. This was much better than last year when it was very difficult to hear the comments. Much appreciated!

--Individuals who knew about individual articles being there to share info and answer questions. Microphone "runners." The location. Getting the detailed town report ahead of time.

--Great town meeting!

--I wish you would let people speak without using a microphone. More people might be willing to speak.

--Well run meeting!

*What I would change:*

Get more people there!

*Additional comments:*

Thanks for making the write ups on the articles easy to find.

There were also several positive comments about the meeting moderation.

Susan noted that if someone did not want to use a microphone, the moderator could repeat a participant's comment for the group.

**B) Remote Town Meeting Participation**

We had three remote participants this year: Harry Domanski and Mr. & Mrs. Whitchurch (Greg's parents). Greg and Janette reported that all who participated from home said it worked well. Janette said she wanted to double-check with Sarah Merriman to make sure the location of the camera wasn't in the way of the ballot voting, but as far as she knew all was well. Next year Bennett Shapiro said we could connect the phone directly to the speaker system, if we contact him in advance to remind him.

The group discussed the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' recommendation that towns doing RTMP (so far we're the only ones) develop a protocol. For instance, what

participants can expect when voting, steps to take if the connection is broken, etc. This is on our to-do list before next year's town meeting.

**C) Child Care**

Susan said she still needed to check with Community Connections for details, but as far as she knew child care went well.

**D) Food**

The spaghetti dinner went smoothly and raised over \$300 for the Food Shelf. The group discussed asking the Selectboard to make a donation to the dinner to cover meals for various volunteers such as the sound and clean-up volunteers.

**E) Thanks**

Many thanks are due, including to Chip Hedler and Paul Trapani at Rumney for help with set up and clean up; Bennett Shapiro for sound; CCV for loaning conference phone; VITL for conference platform (GoToMeeting). Susan said she would thank them on FPF.

**F) Projecting Amendment Wording**

Tim made the suggestion that we should have a projector available for situations where a complex amendment is made, and citizens are asked to vote on word-smithing.

**2.) Reminders**

We discussed reminders for the next meeting, including checking on whether past TMSC minutes were on the Middlesex website, and whether the school board wants help on publicizing the school facilities vote.

**3.) Minutes** from last meeting were approved.

**4.) Next meeting:** Monday, May 12, 2014.

Minutes recorded by Susan Clark