

**Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2017
6:00 p.m. Middlesex Town Office**

Present: Susan Clark, Ron Krauth, Tim Murphy, Janette Shaffer, Dave Shepard

1. Approve Minutes of January 10, 2017 Meeting

The minutes of the January 10, 2017 meeting of the Town Meeting Solutions Committee (TMSC) were reviewed for approval. Janette noted one error in that it was Tim and not her that was going to check with the Vermont National Guard about whether any Middlesex residents were deployed. There was also additional clarification of the discussion about the potential for people to be viewing Town Meeting via Facebook streaming at some future time. Janette moved approval of the minutes, with the above noted changes, with a second from Tim. The minutes were approved.

2. Remote Town Meeting Participation (RTMP)

Janette will contact Chip Hedler at Rumney School this week about the available phone jack. As of this meeting date there have not been any inquiries about RTMP for this year. Susan said she feels it is important to offer RTMP even if there are years where there aren't participants.

2. Civil Invocation

Susan has lined up a recent citizen to present the civil invocation at the beginning of Town Meeting. There will also be a performance of the Vermont State Song by U32 student Savannah Yates.

3. Town Report

The budget pie charts and the table depicting the cost of each article on the warning have been included in the Town Report. Susan reported the Town Report is well organized and there is even a crossword puzzle based on the Middlesex history book written by the Middlesex Historical Society.

4. New Voter Letter

The welcome letter to new voters has been mailed out to the list of new Middlesex voters. The list was quite long this year and included a number of individuals who seemed likely to already be Middlesex voters. There may have been extra names added to the list this year related to the way voters are registered via the Department of Motor Vehicles.

5. Displays and Solicitation at Town Meeting

Susan had an opportunity to raise the question of what kind of information can be displayed and solicitations (e.g. Girl Scout cookie sale) are allowed in the same building where voting is taking place. It is clear that there can't be overtly political information being displayed or handed out in the building but it is less clear-cut for other types of information or solicitations. It appears displays and any solicitations can be set up in a separate space that voters can choose to visit.

6. Feedback from 2016 Town Meeting

Susan recently received a comment form from the 2016 Town Meeting. The comments included appreciation of the civil invocation, to make sure speakers always use a microphone and that there weren't enough chairs.

7. Other Town Meeting Items

Susan will check on making sure there are more chairs set up this year since there weren't enough last year. It would be helpful to get a head count of Town Meeting participants a couple of times during the meeting.

There won't be a March meeting of the TMSC.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, Secretary.

DRAFT