

**Special Town Meeting
Princeton, MA 01541
May 13th, 2008**

Warrant duly posted: April 17, 2008
Inhabitants notified by mail: April 28, 2008
Advisory Board Hearing: May 5, 2008
Quorum needed: 78
Voters present: 136
Moderator: Harry Pape
Checkers/counters: Marcia Sands, Jane Weisman, Judy Dino, Ellen O'Brien
Meeting called to order: 7:23PM
Meeting adjourned: 8:35PM

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the full Warrant
Unanimous 7:23PM

All Articles are approved by the Advisory Board unless otherwise noted.

ARTICLE 1. Voted to transfer from the Wachusett Regional School District account #01-5-320-600 the sum of \$16,658 and to transfer from the library renovation debt account #01-5-710-003 the sum of \$4,500 and transfer from the town insurance account #01-5-913-000 the sum of \$3,482.13 and to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 the sum of \$99,015 for a total \$123,655.13 to be used to offset FY08 Snow and Ice Removal expenses.

Unanimous 7:26PM

ARTICLE 2. Voted to transfer from the FY08 Parks & Recreation Salary account #01-5-630-100 the sum of \$5,000 to the Parks and Recreation account #03-5-630-100 to pay salary for the Parks & Recreation Director position

Unanimous 7:27PM

ARTICLE 3. Voted to transfer from the Building Department Revolving Account #26-5-240-000 the sum of \$5,000 to the Building Department salary account #03-5-240-000 to pay salary for Building Department Inspectors

Unanimous 7:28PM

Article 4: Voted to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into a lease agreement for 26.2 +/- acres of hayfields located at the intersection of Gates and Old Colony Roads, shown on a plan of land prepared by David E. Ross Associates, entitled "Plan of Land in Princeton, Massachusetts, prepared for the Trust for Public Land", any such lease to be used for conservation, agriculture and/or passive recreation purposes, not to exceed 10 years, provided that any such lease agreement is consistent with Chapter

132A, Section 11 of the General Laws and the land use and site management plan for this property

Discussion:

Selectman Joseph O'Brien opened the discussion with a brief statement to explain the purpose of the article. Mr. O'Brien stated that it was always the intention once the Bentley property was owned by the town to keep the land in agricultural use. This article allows the town to enter into a long term lease so that it can be done on a good agricultural plan and comply with the self help grant.

The Moderator requested Town Counsel opinion of whether a 2/3 vote was needed; Town Counsel stated that the vote needed to be 2/3.

A voter requested the status of the Bentley purchase. Selectman O'Brien state that the property is still in process pending the passage of this article. There were questions as to whether the change in the closing date had an impact on the sale. Town Counsel stated that any discussion of the original deal for the Bentley purchase was outside the agenda of the current Town Meeting.

Scott Mellecker proposed an amendment (Amendment 1), which was seconded, to drop the words [agriculture /or] leaving the article to read..."such lease to be used for conservation and recreation purposes..."

Mr. Mellecker in making this amendment felt that it represented the wording found in the original amendment passed at the October 30, 2007 town meeting.

David Krashes proposed an amendment (Amendment 2) to Amendment 1, which was seconded, to insert the words "with haying allowed" leaving the article to read ..."passive recreation purposes with haying allowed..."

Mr. Krashes' stated his intention in making this amendment was to ensure that haying would always be allowed.

After some discussion on Amendment 2 a motion was made and seconded to move Amendment 2 to a vote.

Unanimous 8:06PM

A voice vote was taken on Amendment 2

Moderator declared the Amendment 2 carried 8:10PM

In the discussion on Amendment 1 a voter questioned whether the town could change the language at a future date. Town Counsel responded that changes could be done after a lease expired or if there were no initial bidders for the lease. Proposed changes would be put forth at a Town Meeting for approval. After discussion of the amendment a motion was made and seconded to move Amendment 1 to a vote.

Unanimous 8:28PM

A resident put forth a motion for a paper ballot vote on Amendment 1

After a voice vote the Moderator declared that the motion Failed 8:29PM

A voice vote was taken on Amendment 1

Moderator declared that Amendment 1 failed

8:30PM

Town Counsel revised their previous advice on the vote necessary for Article 4 from 2/3 to a majority.

A move to vote Article 4 was put forth and seconded.

Unanimous

8:32PM

Article was moved to a vote.

Moderator declared the Article carried

8:32PM

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into a lease agreement for 26.2+- acres of hayfields located at the intersection of Gates and Old Colony Roads, shown on a plan of land prepared by David E. Ross Associates, entitled "Plan of Land in Princeton, Massachusetts, prepared for the Trust for Public Land," any such lease to be used for conservation, agriculture and/or passive recreation purposes, not to exceed 10 years, provided that any such lease agreement is consistent with Chapter 132A, Section 11 of the General Laws and the land use and site management plan for this property; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectman and Conservation Commission to file special legislation to approve the lease of said property, or take any other action thereto.

Article 5: Voted to pass over this article.

Unanimous

8:34PM

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Special Town Meeting

Unanimous

8:35PM

Lynne F. Grettum,
Town Clerk