

Special Town Meeting Princeton, Ma 01541 December 15, 2015

Warrant duly posted:	December 1, 2015
Inhabitants notified by website posting:	December 1, 2015
Advisory Board Hearing:	December 7, 2015
Quorum needed:	53
Voters Present:	345
Moderator:	Harry Pape
Checkers/Counters:	Linda Albrecht, Greg Miranda, Betty Lawson, Charlotte Stirewalt, Joyce Szerejko, Carolyn Nelson
Constable:	Michele Powers
Meeting called to order:	7:21PM
Meeting dissolved:	9:14PM

The Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator stated he would entertain a motion to dispense with the full reading of the warrant. A motion to dispense was moved and seconded. A voice vote was taken.

Moderator declared the vote **UNANIMOUS** **7:22PM**

The Moderator asked that all non-voters identify themselves for the tellers.

The Constable for the meeting was identified by the Moderator as Chief Michele Powers

The Moderator explained that he used Town Meeting Time for the rules to conduct the Town Meeting. He announced that the sponsor of the Article would have 5 minutes to speak and all others would be given 3 minutes for their comments and question. He asked that all speakers disclose whether they were for or against the article prior to sharing their comments.

Article 1.

Moved and seconded that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to purchase, take by eminent domain, or otherwise acquire, for purposes of conservation and passive recreation, an approximately 132-acre portion, more or less, of Assessors Lot 12-16, to be acquired in fee, and a conservation restriction pursuant to Chapter 184, Sections 31 – 33 of the Massachusetts General Laws on an approximately 32-acre portion of Assessors Lot 11-62, more or less, as the Board of Selectmen deems reasonable and appropriate, said parcels comprising part of the property known as Fieldstone Farm or Smith Farm on Hubbardston and Calamint Hill Roads, all as approximately shown on Figure 1 attached to Article 1 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant, and filed with the Office of the Town Clerk; that \$650,000 is hereby appropriated and authorized to be borrowed, in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other general or special law for the payment of the costs of acquiring said interests and for the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto; that the Conservation Commission on behalf of the Town is authorized to seek and accept federal and state grants, including but not limited to the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant under Chapter 132A, Section 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and subject to the federal and state laws and regulations applicable to such acceptance, such interests as are acquired by the Town pursuant to this vote shall be under the care and control of the Conservation Commission pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 8C of the Massachusetts General Laws; provided, however, that (i) no amounts may be borrowed hereunder unless the Town has been notified that it has been awarded grants, gifts, donations, or other funds, or any combination thereof, in the aggregate amount of at least \$400,000, and (ii) the amount authorized to be borrowed by this vote shall be reduced by the amount of any grants, gifts, donations or other funds received on account of the project prior to the issuance of any bonds or notes; and provided further, that the borrowing authorized by this vote is contingent upon the Town voting to exclude from the limitations on total taxes imposed by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

Advisory Board Recommended Article.

2/3 Vote required

Sponsor Tom Sullivan of the Princeton Land Trust made the Fieldstone Farm Acquisition presentation. He announced that the Land Grant of \$400,000 which was part of the funding for this acquisition was approved on December 14, 2015.

Voters spoke for and against the article. One motion was made to end discussion, but it was not accepted by the Moderator and discussion continued

Motion was made and seconded to move the question. The Moderator stated that it would take a 2/3 vote to discontinue discussion and move to a vote. A voice vote was taken and the Moderator declared the voice vote carried. He asked if there was a challenge to the vote, being none the question was moved.

A motion was made and seconded for a paper ballot to be used for the vote. The Moderator asked for a voice vote and declared that the motion for a paper ballot carried.

Moderator declared the results of the paper ballot as follows:

335 voters cast a ballot

2/3 required to pass motion was – 223

YES – 241

NO- 94

Moderator declared that the motion carried.

Moderator reminded the voters there was an Election Thursday, Dec 17th from Noon to 8PM, and that the passage of Article 1 was also contingent on the ballot vote at the election as well.

A motion was moved and seconded to dissolve the meeting.

Moderator declared the motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Town Seal

Lynne F. Grettum, Town Clerk