

May 18, 2015
Special Town Meeting
Minutes

Town Moderator, Stephen Doherty, called the session of 2015 Special Town Meeting to order on May 18, 2015 at 7:31 p.m. at the Town Hall Auditorium, 298 Central Street, Saugus, MA with 45 members, plus the moderator present. A quorum is met.

Joyce Rodenhiser from precinct 1 and Jeffrey Moses from precinct 9 were appointed and sworn as tellers by the Town Clerk.

Moderator Doherty led the meeting with the Pledge of Alliance to the Flag. Moderator Doherty asked for a Moment of Silence with respect to our service men & women. He asked that all electronic devices be silenced and put away. We are to start with the STM and if time allows move to the ATM. Moderator Doherty moves to accept the minutes of the last ATM. Acceptance carried at 7:36p.m.

Town Clerk, Ellen Schena, called the roll.

Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent
ATTUBATO, J	P	BARTOLO, J.	P	BILLINGSLEY, S.	P
BROWN, W.	P	CANTERBURY, M.	P	CARDINALE, C.	A
CARLSON, E.	P	CICOLINI, J.	P	CONNORS, A.	P
COSTIN, J.B.	P	COTTAM, D.	P	COTTAM, J.	P
COX, R.	P	DECAREAU, E.	P	DEVLIN, F.A.	P
DINARDO, A.	P	DOCKERY, M.	A	DOHERTY, S.	P
FALASCA, T.	P	FINN, C.	P	FOWLER, J.	P
GOODWIN, P.	P	GROARK, L.	P	GUARINO, K.	A
JOHNSON, P.	P	JONES, C.	P	LEUCI, W.	P
LONG, R.	P	LOPRESTI, A.	P	CHRISTOPHER, R	P
MANOOGIAN, P.	P	MCCARTHY, S.	P	MCLAUGHLIN, P.	P
MORESCHI, C.	P	MOSES, J.	P	PALCZYNSKI, J.	P
PAOLINI, M.	P	POLITANO, K.	P	PURACCHIO, S.	P
QUINLAN, E.	A	RANDO, P.	P	RING, D.	P
RODENHISER, J.	P	ROSSETTI, P.	P	SMITH, R.	P
SPENCER, B.	P	STEWART, W.	P	SWEEZEY, S.	P
TRAVERSE, T.	P	WITTEN, R.	P		

46 Members present, a quorum is met.

Reports of Committees:

Beginning with the Financial Committee Report.

Ken DePatto, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke at 7:37p.m.

- Update on the Financial Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2015 voting on the rest of the Fiscal Articles minus Articles 22, 23, 24 and 25 which should be discussed on May 27, 2015. Once this is complete he has asked the Town Clerk to send out to all Town Meeting Members a report in PDF Form. Hard copies will be made available in the Clerk's Office for those unable to print.
- Addressed Article 1 of the STM and the Financial Committees Recommendation.

The Sidewalk Committee Report.

Mr. Peter Manoogian , Precinct 10 speaks at 7:40p.m.

- Addressed the FY 2016, 2017 & 2018 budgets pertaining to sidewalks.
- Held a meeting with Town Manager and Director of DPW discussing the front end load.
- Committee voted to continue the Lincoln Ave project
- The Committee will be attending a meeting with Manager and the Engineering Firm
- Made recommendation to the Administration for the corner of the Fellsway and Ames Street near the Saugus YMCA.

Article 1.

As a courtesy to the Finance Committee, Mrs. McLaughlin moves Article 1 as recommend to the floor

Seconded at 7:43 p.m.

Article as written:

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote appropriate a sum of money for the designing, constructing, repairing and replacing parks and playgrounds in the Town, including the payments of costs incidental or related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any action relative thereto. (Town Manager)

Seconded at 7:44p.m.

Tellers hand out additional copies to Town Meeting Members as requested by the Town Manager.

Town Manager, Scott Crabtree speaks at 7:49p.m.

- This is a 1.5 million dollar Article for Capital Improvements for Parks and Playgrounds that have been neglected for decades.
- This 1.5 million is the start to do repairs for safety and liability issues to our town.
- Clarification; this is a borrowing Article to be used for expenditures. This does not pay for salaries and operations of Parks & Playgrounds.
- Saugus Parks & Playgrounds need immediate repairs and most seemed to be abandoned. Very minimal standards dealing with parks & playgrounds
- Two more injuries reported in the last week at the parks.
- New Construction of a couple of projects needed.

Slide Presentation on each Park/Playground within Saugus begins at 7:54p.m by Town Manager, Scott Crabtree:

Bristow (Bucchiere Park)
Stocker Playground
Evans Playground
Veteran’s School
Anna Parker Playground
Waybright School
Saugus High School
Stackpole Field
Lynnhurst School – Memorial Park
Belmonte Middle School
Prankers Pond
Oaklandvale School
Golden Hills Playground

Slide presentation on examples of Parks & Playgrounds in Neighboring Communities.

- Addressing the safety issues, he would like to begin with Bristow Street Park. Put in 15 automobile spaces, new track, basketball court and baseball field.
- Spoke about the Veteran’s School playground which accommodates the largest elementary school in Saugus.

Robert Long precinct 9 speaks at 8:12p.m. He was not prepared to support this Article tonight. However, after the presentation he is supporting parks and playgrounds which is essential for the community.

Robert Cox precinct 4 speaks at 8:14p.m.

- The issue he is bringing up is that the legislation is now before us tonight. He received an email on Sunday morning from the Town Manager but it was less than 24 hours to vote. Public hearings were designed on what was going to be done.
- He emailed the manager’s office that could not read the sent documents in PDF Form because his software cannot decipher it.
- He feels this is a political issue that the new Board of Selectmen is using.
- He doesn’t want to spend any money on anything that is for political gain. He is not against the Article but against doing anything without the full understanding of the numbers.
- He is making a motion to table this Article.

Motion made by Robert Cox precinct 4 to Table Article 1.

Seconded at 8:23p.m.

Moderator Steve Doherty explains that a Yea vote is to table the Article and a No vote is to continue with the Article on the floor.

Roll Call Vote by Town Clerk:

Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent
ATTUBATO, J	N	BARTOLO, J.	N	BILLINGSLEY, S.	N
BROWN, W.	Y	CANTERBURY, M.	N	CARDINALE, C.	A
CARLSON, E.	N	CICOLINI, J.	N	CONNORS, A.	N
COSTIN, J.B.	N	COTTAM, D.	N	COTTAM, J.	N
COX, R.	Y	DECAREAU, E.	Y	DEVLIN, F.A.	N
DINARDO, A.	N	DOCKERY, M.	A	DOHERTY, S.	
FALASCA, T.	N	FINN, C.	N	FOWLER, J.	N
GOODWIN, P.	N	GROARK, L.	N	GUARINO, K.	A
JOHNSON, P.	N	JONES, C.	N	LEUCI, W.	N
LONG, R.	N	LOPRESTI, A.	N	CHRISTOPHER, R	N
MANOOGIAN, P.	N	MCCARTHY, S.	N	MCLAUGHLIN, P.	N
MORESCHI, C.	N	MOSES, J.	N	PALCZYNSKI, J.	N
PAOLINI, M.	N	POLITANO, K.	N	PURACCHIO, S.	N
QUINLAN, E.	A	RANDO, P.	N	RING, D.	N
RODENHISER, J.	N	ROSSETTI, P.	N	SMITH, R.	N
SPENCER, B.	N	STEWART, W.	N	SWEEZEY, S.	N
TRAVERSE, T.	N	WITTEN, R.	Y		

Yea: 4
Nay: 41
Abst: 4

The motion to Table the Article does not pass at 8:25p.m. The discussion continues.

Greg Nickolas, Director of Saugus Youth and Recreation speaks at 8:26p.m.

- Back in 2007 he created a report about the deplorable conditions of the Parks & Playgrounds in Saugus. Mark Andrews, head of the Friends of Saugus Parks & Playgrounds Committee created a report in 2009.
- He states we are very fortunate that Saugus has not been sued over the years.
- What is taking place tonight is a ‘jump’ start to address the issues.

Debra Panetta, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen speaks at 8:31p.m.

- Parks & Playgrounds is a priority of the Board of Selectmen.
- This is not a new issue for her, top priority.
- Instead of video games and texting the children, they should be outside playing.
- Now is the time to get things done.

Jeff Moses, precinct 9 speaks at 8:34p.m.

- He has a question on the 2 handouts; First on the CDM Smith Report and the other Parks Reports.
- He is in support of this Article.

Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:35p.m.

- CDM Smith report is a estimation.
- The other Parks Report is an estimation form the Friends of Saugus Parks & Playgrounds Committee.
- The DPW is the one who came up with the 1.1 million dollar estimate.
- There is a \$100,000 allocated to the Bristow Street Park from the Resco settlement with another \$400,000 to \$500,000 from the CDM estimate.
- Not just replacing a slide, if it needs more to invest more money in that specific park.

Mark Andrews, 7 Atherton Street, speaks at 8:38p.m.

- He is associated with the Friends of Saugus Parks & Playgrounds Committee.
- Has the original report that was created in 2009 and nothing has been done in over 10 years to the Parks & Playgrounds.

William Stewart, precinct 3 speaks at 8:40p.m.

- He resides in precinct 3 and there is nothing in the reports on Stocker Playground to fund money there.
- No information on Springdale Park. There has been contractor’s updating that park recently but that is because they are developing 2 houses in that location.

Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:41pm.

- Stocker Park will be addressed as well as all the Parks & Playgrounds are being looked at in the report.

Jeff Cicolini, Board of Selectmen speaks at 8:42p.m.

- His children will be attending Saugus High School Academy Program and the Belmonte Middle School.

- Saugus Parks & Playgrounds need to be addressed immediately.
- The surrounding areas have all state of the art facilities, why not Saugus.
- This is a borrowing article that hopefully will be put into a Capital Improvement Plan.

Ronald Witten, precinct 1 speaks at 8:46p.m.

- There are other problems with the parks and playgrounds specifically with drinking and drugs. There is no lighting. So they would see the lights of the cruiser and would take off.
- If Saugus is going to invest money into the playgrounds then we must invest into security. The parks and playgrounds are being vandalized.

Scott Crabtree speaks at 8:49p.m.

- They might be considering remote cameras but they are on the expensive side.
- He has had conversation with the Police Chief to set up an Auxiliary Police Squad since they do not exist any longer. The Auxiliary Police are a group of volunteers that go and check the cemeteries, schools and playgrounds.

Madison Hunt, 38 Jackson, precinct 6 speaks at 8:52p.m.

- On behalf of the youth in the town, they feel that the Town of Saugus doesn't care about Town. The High School kids don't have any faith in the Town.
- This Article will show the youth that we do care and have a place for them to go.

Ann Devlin, precinct 1 speaks at 8:54p.m.

- She is very excited to support this attempt to improve the playgrounds. This is the first step to bringing back pride to the Town.
- Her group "SAVE" was involved with the Community Preservation Act in 2001 which could be a source for future funding.

Eugene Decareau, precinct 8 speaks at 8:56p.m.

- He is in favor of the program but not in favor of the way it was presented. He wants professionals to come up with actual money figures and not estimates.
- Would like to make the recommendation to refer back to the manager to get 3 quotes from contractors with complete building materials and must comply with State and Federal Regulations. He feels this is important but needs to do it right!

Motion by Eugene Decareau to refer the Article back to the Town Manager.

Seconded by Robert Cox at 8:59p.m.

Yes, vote is to refer back to the Town Manager.

No, vote is to continue the discussion and move to a potential vote on the Article.

Show of "Hands" Vote taken by Tellers at 9:00p.m.

Yea: 2 on left side / 1 on right side.

Nay: 17 on the left / 25 on the ride.

Motion to refer the Article back to the Town Manager was defeated.

The discussion continues on Article 1.

Jennifer Leonard, 23 Pinehurst Road speaks at 9:01pm. Her daughter is in a wheelchair at the Veteran's School in the 1st grade and cannot play in any of the Saugus playgrounds. They have to go to Melrose and Beverly to accommodate her needs. They are a military family and like living here but need Saugus to make the parks and playgrounds handicap accessible.

Al DiNardo, precinct 4 speaks at 9:02pm. He is in support of this Article and we need to get out of the 9150's into present times. This is long overdue.

Jennifer D'Eon, Board of Selectmen speaks at 9:04pm. Two years ago her daughter Ali broke her Arm at the Veteran's playground. She is in favor of this Article.

Rick Smith, precinct 3 speaks at 9:06pm that he is favor of this Article.

William Leuci, precinct 4 speaks at 9:07pm. When he came in tonight he was opposed, because he didn't have enough information but after what he heard to he believes we need this for the students. He is in favor of this Article.

Robert Cox, precinct 4 speaks at 9:10pm.

- When he spoke earlier his concerns were not addressed properly,. He is now speaking about the parks and Playgrounds.
- He will support this but to many times what happens that plans fall short. He wants an action plan with a rational estimation. This has to be associated with a plan to stay as a permanent feature in the Town.

- He wants long terms fixtures.

Call for a Voice Vote

Seconded at 9:15p.m.

Article as voted: Voted to appropriate through borrowing the sum of \$1,500,000.00 for the designing, constructing, repairing and replacing parks and playgrounds in the Town, including the payments of costs incidental or related thereto.

Roll Call Vote by Town Clerk.

Town Meeting Member name	Present/Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Present/Absent	Town Meeting Member name	Present/Absent
ATTUBATO, J	Y	BARTOLO, J	Y	BILLINGSLEY, S.	Y
BROWN, W.	Y	CANTERBURY, M.	Y	CARDINALE, C.	A
CARLSON, E.	Y	CICOLINI, J.	Y	CONNORS, A.	Y
COSTIN, J.B.	Y	COTTAM, D.	Y	COTTAM, J.	Y
COX, R.	Y	DECAREAU, E.	N	DEVLIN, F.A.	Y
DINARDO, A.	Y	DOCKERY, M.	A	DOHERTY, S.	
FALASCA, T.	Y	FINN, C.	Y	FOWLER, J.	Y
GOODWIN, P.	Y	GROARK, L.	Y	GUARINO, K.	A
JOHNSON, P.	Y	JONES, C.	Y	LEUCI, W.	Y
LONG, R.	Y	LOPRESTI, A.	Y	CHRISTOPHER, R	Y
MANOOGIAN, P.	Y	MCCARTHY, S.	Y	MCLAUGHLIN, P.	Y
MORESCHI, C.	Y	MOSES, J.	Y	PALCZYNSKI, J.	Y
PAOLINI, M.	Y	POLITANO, K.	Y	PURACCHIO, S.	Y
QUINLAN, E.	A	RANDO, P.	Y	RING, D.	Y
RODENHISER, J.	Y	ROSSETTI, P.	Y	SMITH, R.	Y
SPENCER, B.	Y	STEWART, W.	Y	SWEEZEY, S.	Y
TRAVERSE, T.	Y	WITTEN, R.	Y		

Yea: 44
Nay: 1
Abst; 4

Article 1 passed as recommended by the Finance Committee, by roll call vote at 9:18pm.

Ms. Rodenhiser, precinct 1 moves to adjourn the May 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Sine Die.

Seconded at 9:19p.m.

Unanimous voice vote adjourn Sine Die at 9:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Joyce Schena
Town Clerk