



**Annual Town Meeting
April 1, 2023
9:00 am
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**

At the close of registration on March 22, 2023 there were 5669 registered voters. There were 465 present:

Precinct 1 - 238

Precinct 2 - 227

William Bowler, Town Moderator, stated that the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting had been properly posted, a quorum was present, and the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Hamilton was open. Mr. Bowler stated that tellers had been appointed in the event they are needed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Bowler started with some general reminders: First, registered voter in Hamilton should have picked up a voting clicker and if they did not should get one. He also noted that voters should have also received a pink Hamilton voter card, in case it is needed. Second, cell phones should be silenced and voters should leave the meeting to make a call. Third, non-voters are welcomed at Town Meeting and are asked to sit in the visitors' area in the back of the auditorium.

Mr. Bowler thanked the student volunteers and School Department employees who set up this Town Meeting. He introduced the officials who were sitting at the front of Town Meeting: Tom McEnaney (KP Law, Town Counsel), Carin Kale (Town Clerk), Joe Domelowicz (Town Manager), Wendy Markiewicz (Finance Director), Shawn Farrell (Select Board, Chair), Jamie Knudsen (Select Board), Caroline Beaulieu (Select Board), Bill Olson (Select Board), Tom Myers (Select Board), Christina Schenk-Hargrove (FinCom, Chair), John Pruellage (FinCom), Harry Philip (FinCom), David Wanger (FinCom), and John McGrath (FinCom).

Mr. Bowler stated: "I have asked non-resident Town officials and those assisting the Select Board or Finance Committee to be present so they can answer questions. Members of the press (and the video crew) have also been allowed to be present." He added that the agenda, prepared by the Select Board, is the Warrant.

Mr. Bowler spoke about Town Meeting procedures: To bring an agenda item before the meeting, he will recognize a member of the sponsoring board, committee, or individual so they can make a motion. If the motion is seconded, he will recognize the proponent to speak. When done, he will open discussion. To ensure an orderly meeting, if a voter wishes to speak, the voter must first ask to be

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recognized. He asked that voters be standing at a microphone and, when recognized, state their name and street address. He said the rules are those used at every Town Meeting. Voters have three minutes to make comments or ask questions about the motion. If a voter continues to speak once time has elapsed, to maintain a fair and efficient meeting requires that he move to the next speaker. Comments and questions must be within 'the four corners of the motion.' He reminded voters that they are in a legislative session for the Town of Hamilton and that while spirited debate is welcome, being cordial and respectful is a priority for the efficiency of the Meeting and every person who rises to debate a motion has an equal right to be heard. As such, he asked that people refrain from making remarks of a personal nature about any Town or School officials or any person who is in favor of or against the motion and comment on the merits of the motion. To ensure that the Meeting is run efficiently, comments or questions must be directed to the Moderator rather than any individual or Town official. If deemed appropriate, he may ask the person making the Motion or another Town official to respond to the question. He asked that there be no applause, cheering, booing, or any other conduct that will disrupt or delay the Meeting. All motions to amend must be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing and Town Counsel is available to provide some assistance. No more than one amendment may be pending at the same time. A vote is first taken on the amendment and then on the main motion.

Mr. Bowler spoke about the voting procedures: Votes will be counted using the electronic voting clickers. In the unlikely event that there is trouble with the technology, votes will be counted by raising paper voter cards. He will decide visually whether there is the necessary majority or 2/3 vote. If in doubt, or seven voters question the vote immediately after the outcome is declared he will have the vote counted by tellers.

SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 2023/4 1-2 Reports

To hear reports of Town Officers and selected committees and to take action thereon or relative thereto. Reports will appear in the Town Report for Fiscal Year 2022 and be posted to the Town of Hamilton Website. Town Moderator recognized Shawn Farrell.

Shawn Farrell said: "I move that the reports of Town Officers and Committees be received and placed on file. Is there a second?" Seconded.

Town Moderator recognized Shawn Farrell.

Shawn Farrell spoke about the upcoming sale of the Gordon Conwell Seminary property and the possible reuse and plans for the location. Mr. Farrell presented a summary timeline of the events and work that had occurred. He mentioned that the Planning Board will hold public hearings on a proposed Overlay District, a Special Town Meeting will be held in June to approve the zoning change, and that a development agreement would then be executed. Mr. Farrell introduced David Gamble of Gamble Associates.

David Gamble gave an overview of the benefits, impacts and tensions regarding the Gordon Conwell 100 acre property with 400,000 square feet across 14 buildings. Only 40-50 acres are available for development given the slopes and trees. Overarching 'Guiding Principles' had been discussed at public meetings. Physical and fiscal characteristic of the site would need to be combined into a final report. Core values were discussed and included a transparent process, cohesiveness of the property,

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working with topography, sustainability, public access, historic buildings, dormitories, and developable areas. The goal was to balance development while maintaining principles. Continuity of the tree canopy and wetlands tied different portions of the site together. Mr. Gamble considered the land to be in three campuses, upper campus (14 acres), central portion (8 to 10 acres), and six residential buildings in the lower campus (11 acres). A single land use might be vulnerable to economic fluctuations. The market would determine where projects landed. The existing buildings required investment to bring them up to code.

Mr. Bowler recognized Marnie Crouch.

Marnie Crouch (Planning Board Chair) thanked Gordon Conwell for their cooperation and introduced the members of the Planning Board. They are working on an Overlay District, which will be brought to the Town for approval. The proposed Bylaw would address the needs of the Town and Seminary.

Shawn Farrell introduced Bill Wilson (Master Plan Committee Chair) who discussed the benefits of the Master Plan and the history of the Committee. The Committee focused on three (3) Guiding Principles: What to protect, What to provide, and How to grow. Community engagement was ongoing. Mr. Wilson discussed important features worth protecting.

Electronic Vote: 309 in favor; 6 opposed. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 2023/4 1-3 Articles for Consent Motion

To see if the Town will consolidate in one consent motion containing the motions for those articles that, in the opinion of the Moderator, are not controversial and can be passed without debate, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator said: "I will now read the list of articles to be taken up and voted on as one motion. If you want to ask questions or make comments on an article, shout out 'Hold' as the list is read. Any article that is held will be deleted from the Consent Motion and taken up and considered according to its place on the Warrant: Article 2-1, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 2-11, 2-12 and 3-2." Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson.

Motion of Bill Olson: "I move that the articles included on the List of Articles for Consent Motion for this 2023 Annual Town Meeting, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk to be filed with the minutes of this meeting, be approved by one vote, each motion to be deemed a separate action under the Warrant Article having the same corresponding number."

Seconded.

Electronic Vote: In favor 336; Opposed 7. Motion passes.

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-2 Prior Year Bills

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum of money to pay any unpaid bills incurred in prior years, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$1,575.01*) Town Moderator noted the article required a 4/5th vote.

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Town Moderator recognized Christina Schenk-Hargrove.

Motion of Christina Schenk-Hargrove: "I move that the Town transfer the sum of \$900 from DPW Consultative Services account and \$675.01 from the Finance Department Consultative Services account to pay unpaid bill for Voltrek, O'Connell Plumbing, and Carousel Industries respectively." Seconded.

Electronic Vote: In favor 306; Opposed 4; a 4/5ths majority was declared. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-3 General Town Departmental Appropriations

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to defray the expenses of schools and all other Town expenses for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected requests Town - \$13,904.365 and all educational expenses, including HWRSD and ENSATSD - \$23,396,950*).

Town Moderator said: "This is our annual general Town and School omnibus appropriations article. I recognize Eric Tracy (Superintendent of Schools) to report on the School Budget."

Eric Tracy said the net increase of the School budget was 2.66% or \$1.2M. Due to an enrollment shift, cost to Hamilton (66% of school population) shifted by \$285,000. Dr. Tracy explained how the \$3.1M Excess and Deficiency Funds would be spent: \$1.698M would go to the Stabilization Fund for athletic fields, \$701,095 would go to maintenance and \$773,064 to be refunded to the Towns. The FY'23 to FY'24 increase to Hamilton was 3.9%. Superintendent Tracy noted that State had recently mandated a 14% increase for some services.

Town Moderator said: "I recognized Joe Domelowicz, Town Manager to report on the Town Budget." Joe Domelowicz introduced Wendy Markiewicz, Town Accountant/Director of Finance before discussing the budget for Town and Schools that featured an increase of \$3.312M over the prior year with a large portion for capital improvements. The School increase to Hamilton was \$854,000. The Town increase was \$2.4M.

Town Moderator said: "I will now read each appropriation and for any item a voter would like to discuss separately, please shout out 'hold'."

\$ 2,378,699 for General Town Government

\$ 3,921,655 for Public Safety

\$23,089,492 for Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District

\$ 307,458 for Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District

\$ 2,330,985 for Department of Public Works

\$ 370,192 for Health and Human Services

\$ 1,157,859 for Culture and Recreation

\$ 3,744,974 for Unclassified

Totaling \$37,301,315

Town Moderator said: "I recognize John Pruellage."

Motion of John Pruellage: "I move that the Town raise and appropriate the sums read by the Moderator for Schools and all other Town expenses which are set forth in the 2024 Fiscal Year Budget

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in Appendix B of the 2023 Appendix Book and Appendix C of the 2023 Appendix Book with the corrections read by the Moderator excepting those items held.” Seconded.

John Pruellage noted the FinCom unanimously supported the Budget. One-time purchases would not affect the tax rate. Mr. Pruellage explained different departmental increases. The increase in the tax rate would be \$.32. There was no levy capacity left in the Town.

Phil Stearns (Linden St.) thanked the Town and Schools for avoiding an override. Mr. Stearns questioned the School’s \$39M OPEB unfunded liability of which \$26M will belong to Hamilton. He stated that over 2 years the budget included \$2.25M but it appears that the amount is not in the fund. An additional \$200,000 had been allocated this year. Eric Tracy responded the Committee put \$2.2M into the Fund from Excess and Deficiency. The School Committee added \$100,000, then \$150,000, then \$200,000, which would increase by \$50,000 more each year to meet the long-term liability.

Jack Hauck (Moulton St.) spoke in support of the Town Manager.

Steven Porter (18 Cunningham Dr.) asked about subsidy from the State.

Eric Tracy responded \$3.9M had been received from the State with a \$100,000 increase for the following year. Medicaid and transportation were revenues and offsets, which totaled about \$9M.

Eric Convey (115 Linden St.) asked about enrollment shift for prior debt obligations.

Bill Wilson (36 Howard St.) asked about enrollment shift trends.

Eric Tracy explained that population was trending downward in general but there was an increase in the elementary grades.

Town Moderator reread the budget numbers.

Electronic Vote: In favor 372; Opposed 32 against. Motion passes.

Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Kristen Kassner were present.

Representative Kassner spoke about regional issues and budgetary constraints. Senator Tarr congratulated the Schools, FinCom, and Select Board for their production of the budget and updated residents about progress being made at the State level. The State was \$600M in excess of its projected budget. State Assistance (Chapter 70) for Schools was projected to be \$624M with a \$124,000 increase for the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District. Unrestricted government aid would be increase by \$15,000 to \$16,000. The 14% increase for outplacement was being balanced with circuit breaking funding. Robust tax revenue had been experienced.

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-4 Capital Expenditures

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding capital expenditures and further, to authorize the Town Manager to administer and expend funds from said accounts, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$1,446,050*) Town Moderator recognized Tom Myers.

Motion of Tom Myers: “I move that the Town vote to: 1) transfer the sum of \$1,096,050 from Free Cash to fund the following purchases and projects identified in the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Projects Plan, which is set forth in Appendix D of the 2023 Appendix Book: DPW Sander (\$215,000), Radio Upgrade (\$70,000), Fuel Station (\$395,000), DPW Garage Doors (\$75,000), Library HVAC (\$200,000), Library Security (\$13,050), Hamilton Police Department Cruiser (\$70,000), and Emergency Communication Operations Center Cameras (\$58,000); 2) transfer \$105,000 from Water

Department retained earnings to purchase and equip a Water Department Utility truck as set forth in Appendix D of the 2023 Appendix Book; and 3) appropriate the sum of \$700,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of designing, constructing and equipping the Water Phase V Implementation Project and Water Media Projects, including all costs incidental and related thereto; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said sum under G.L. c 44 §§ 7 or 8, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town transfer therefore, with the expectation that said bonds or notes will be repaid from the Water Enterprise Fund and further, that the Select Board is further authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out these projects and vote hereunder.” Seconded.

Town Moderator recognized John Pruellage.

John Pruellage said details of the articles were listed in the FinCom report. The Capital Committee recommended that each of these items should be funded this year. The FinCom unanimous agreed with the spending. \$1.1M was used from Free Cash.

Deb Safford (Maple St.) questioned the cameras at the Emergency Communication Operation Center and other locations. Russ Stevens (Police Chief) responded that cameras were also at Town Hall currently but would be installed at Patton Park in the future. Cameras would not be placed to point at private property. The need was for liability purposes.

Electronic Vote: In favor 372; Opposed 22; a 2/3 majority was established. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 2023/4-2-5 Fire Engine Purchase

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money to purchase and equip a new fire truck, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by transfer from available funds, including but not limited to reserved bond sale premiums, or otherwise provided; or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$760,000*). A 2/3 vote will be required to approve this article if funds are appropriated from the Stabilization Fund. Town Moderator recognized Caroline Beaulieu.

Motion of Caroline Beaulieu: “I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$760,000 to purchase and equip a new fire truck, and that to meet this appropriation, transfer the sum of \$114,569 from reserved bond sale premiums and \$645,431 from the Capital Stabilization Fund.”
Seconded.

Caroline Beaulieu said the purchase was proactive as it would take a couple of years to obtain and equip the new fire truck.

Electronic Vote: In favor 354; Opposed 26; a 2/3 majority in favor was declared. Motion passes

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-10 Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will transfer \$57,541 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$57,541*). Town Moderator recognized David Wanger. A 2/3 vote was required.

Motion of David Wanger: I move that the Town transfer the sum of \$57,541.00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund. Seconded.

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David Wanger said the transfer was pursuant to financial policies that had been adopted. 5% of the operating budget would be transferred. Shawn Farrell thanked Mr. Wanger, who was leaving the FinCom, for all of his years of service. Mr. Knudsen was not seeking reelection to the Select Board and Mr. Farrell thanked him for his service as well.

Electronic Vote: In favor 367; Opposed 6; a 2/3 majority was established. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-13 Community Preservation School Athletic Fields

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. C 44B to appropriate \$800,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Reserve Fund Account for the purpose of funding a portion of the design, construction, reconstruction, improvement, and equipping of the athletic and recreational facilities located at the Hamilton Wenham Regional High School, 775 Bay Road, Hamilton MA including all incidental and related costs as set forth in an application on file with the Town Clerk, dated December 22, 2022 approved by the Community Preservation Committee on February 16, 2023; provided however that the expenditure of said funds shall not be authorized if Town Meeting fails to approve Articles 2023/4-2-14, the Town of Wenham fails to appropriate its share of the costs for said project; or construction of the project fails to commence by April 6, 2025, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Motion of Jay Butler: "I move that the Town approve Article 2-13 as printed in the Warrant."
Seconded.

Jay Butler said the \$800,000 request was meant to lower the cost of the \$15M project. The grant had been approved by the CPC, Select Board, and FinCom. The voters of Hamilton and Wenham will need to approve the debt exclusion at Town Meeting and at the polls. Wenham would also need to approve their CPC grant request at Town Meeting. Construction would need to begin within two years. A Memorandum of Understanding between the School and the Recreation Department would need to define public access to the fields, which was almost complete. In 2016 a \$44,000 grant was approved for baseline studies. No other grant requests were in competition for the request.

Eric Tracy offered an overview of athletics in the district, statistics regarding participation, the status of the current fields, the components and goals of the project, and the cost and possible offsets to the cost. He also spoke about PFAS contamination by using crumb rubber fill and the benefits of alternative fills. MIIA requirements included checking the heat on fields, which may increase due to rubber products.

Peter Gourdeau (416 Bridge St.) gave a fundraising report: \$1,277,567 from 125 community members and organizations. Mr. Gourdeau thanked members of the fund raising committee and other contributing residents. More future donors, grants, and foundations would be sought. The proposal reflected the future of the children of Hamilton.

Town Moderator recognized John McGrath.

John McGrath thanked Eric Tracy for his cooperation. The FinCom supported the funding source but would discuss the financial implications of the capital spending Town and School wide. The broader conversation would be held at the next article.

Olaf Krohg (1 Longmeadow Way) shared his concern about synthetic turf fields, noting that Boston public schools had banned turf fields. Mr. Krohg warned voters about the potential chemicals that would impact generations to come.

Kathy Simons (245 Sagamore St.) seconded the concerns that had been identified.

Tim Clark (Sagamore St.) spoke in favor of the article.

Electronic Vote: In favor 347; Opposed 68. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-14 School Athletic Fields Project – Approval of Borrowing

To see if the Town will vote to approve the debt authorized by the Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee in the amount of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) for the purpose of designing, constructing, reconstructing, making improvements to and equipping the athletic and recreational facilities located at Hamilton Wenham Regional High School, 775 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; provided however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town at an election to exclude from the limits imposed by Proposition 2 ½, the amounts needed to pay for the Town's allocated share of the principal and interest in such debt, and that the total amount authorized to be expended by the Regional School District under the Regional School Committee bond authorization and this vote shall be reduced by any grants or gifts received for such purposes or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$15,000,000*).

Town Moderator noted that a 2/3 vote was required. Town Moderator recognized Caroline Beaulieu.

Motion of Caroline Beaulieu: "I move that the Town approve the debt authorized by the Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee ("School Committee") in the amount of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) for the purpose of designing, constructing, reconstructing, making improvements to and equipping the athletic and recreational facilities located at Hamilton Wenham Regional High School, 775 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town at an election to exclude from the limits imposed by Proposition 2 1/2, the amounts needed to pay for the Town's allocated share of the principal and interest on such debt, and further, that the expenditure of funds authorized to be borrowed hereunder shall be reduced by any grants or gifts received for such purposes and by any other amount or amounts that the School Committee may, from time to time, appropriate from the District Capital Stabilization Fund, including, but not limited to the \$1,690,000 the School District has indicated will be earmarked for the project in FY24." Seconded.

Caroline Beaulieu said the Select Board was in support of improving the fields but individuals needed to determine their wants and needs.

Town Moderator recognized John McGrath.

John McGrath said the FinCom recommended a phased approach and consideration of a smaller project. The Gale Report indicated an eight to ten year phased approach was appropriate. The FinCom requested a \$5M per period approach. This field would cost each taxpayer an average of \$300 per year for ten years. In two years, the School will request spending an average of \$100M on a new school. Each taxpayer would be responsible for \$1,000 more per year for 30 years. Mr. McGrath asked residents to make decisions in the context of other needs.

Eric Tracy asked John McGrath to acknowledge that the entire \$15M would not be needed and then proceeded to introduce Kathy Hervol (Gale Associates). Ms. Hervol said the original Master Plan approached the project in phases but ten years had already passed. Ms. Hervol explained why phasing the project would cost more if the School did not construct the project at one time.

Bill Olson (419 Highland St.), Michelle Horgan (School Committee), Chloe Gern (high school student), and Mia Flores (high school student), spoke in favor of the proposal.

Jack Lawrence (105 Rock Maple Ave.) and Kathy Simons (245 Sagamore St.), spoke against the proposal.

Motion of Harry Philip (448 Bay Road): I move to amend Article 2023/4 2-14 by striking out Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) and inserting Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000). Seconded.

Mr. Philip stated that the town needed to invest in the fields but \$15M was too much to spend on the investment. Reducing the debt would reduce the individual tax increase from \$300 to \$150 per year. The motion allowed significant improvements while cutting the tax impact in half.

Dana Allara (Echo Cove Rd./HW School Committee), Peter Gourdeau (Bridge St), Jonathan Lamb (135 Blueberry Lane), Eric Tracy (Superintendent), and Anna Siezek (Highland St.) spoke against the motion to amend.

Jen Saffrin (Maple St.) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Electronic Vote to amend the main motion – In favor 66; Opposed 313; motion to amend fails.

Discussion ensued regarding the Main Motion.

Lu Lebeck (Pine Tree Drive) and Anne Laws (17 Postgate Rd.) spoke in favor of the proposal.

Anne Gero (821 Bay Rd.) spoke against the proposal and asked Eric Tracy if the School would commit to not using crumb rubber. Dr. Tracy said the School did not plan to use crumb rubber.

Electronic Vote on the main motion: In favor 303; Opposed 92; a 2/3 majority was established. Motion passes.

SECTION 3: OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ACTIONS.

ARTICLE 2023/4 3-1 General Bylaws – Amendment to the Conservation Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Chapter XVII of the Town's General By-laws, Conservation, by deleting the language shown in strike-through and inserting the language shown in bold, as forth in Appendix H, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator recognized Tom Myers.

Motion of Tom Myers: "I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter XVII of the Town's General Bylaws, Conservation, by deleting the current version of Chapter XVII in its entirety and replacing it

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with the version shown in the handout entitled “3/22/23 Final Proposed Conservation Bylaw Revision – Town of Hamilton,” a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk’s Office.” Seconded.

Town Myers recognized Lauren Lynch.

Lauren Lynch gave an overview of the proposed Bylaw and the need to update the Bylaw because it was missing key points. Ms. Lynch reviewed the number of meetings that had been conducted and changes made. Ms. Lynch referred to the documents that had been distributed at Town Meeting.

Bill Olson (Highland St./Selectman) asked if the Bylaw would impact the new turf field project or private property, to which Lauren Lynch responded that it would not.

Marc Johnson (6 Patton Drive), John Raymond (62 Gardner St.), Tom Ford (Bay Road) and Rick Mitchell (Rock Maple Road) spoke against the proposal.

John Worrell (260 Chebacco Rd.) spoke in favor of the proposal.

Lauren Lynch said definitions were aligned with best practices and that the changes did not include any changes to the jurisdiction of the Commission. Ms. Lynch explained changes were only administrative and the Bylaw had last been updated in the 1980’s. The proposal was in alignment with MACC guidelines and other local communities.

Ashley Goliti (254 Bridge St.) asked about the proposed changes as they affected the turf field project. Lauren Lynch responded that the Commission had previously approved the turf field project, so any changes would not apply.

Marc Johnson questioned the language regarding projects elsewhere and foreseeable. Lauren Lynch said the language was made in regard to cumulative impacts such as projects subdivided into small pieces. Projects were inter-related to one another, according to Ms. Lynch.

Bill Wilson (36 Howard St.) asked if the turf field would have passed and would it impact other projects. Lauren Lynch said the proposal did not constitute substantive changes. Approval would not be changed.

John Cole (66 Chebacco Rd.) did not think the proposal was strong enough.

Caroline Beaulieu (Select Board) clarified that the proposal increases the legally enforceable jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, that the change is more than administrative. The change closes the gap between the Regulations and the Bylaw. Lauren Lynch said it legally protected the Commission.

Electronic Vote: In favor 101; Opposed 73. Motion passes.

ARTICLE 2023/4 3-3 Citizens’ Petition – Conservation Restriction Parcels, South Area of Patton Gift.

To see if the Town will vote to ask the Select Board to create a Conservation Restriction (CR) on 19 acres total, more or less, on three adjacent Town-owned parcels at the southern end of the Patton gift of

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2012; the conservancy, parcel number 27-0006 (632 Asbury St, 9.09 acres), Patton Wells, parcel number 27-0001 (0 Asbury St, 3.9 acres), and the southern/westernmost portion of what is commonly referred to as Patton Homestead, parcel 19-0001 (650 Asbury Street, approximately 6.0 acres, the northern boundary of which to be determined by survey, see Map in Appendix I), or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator recognized George Tarr.

Motion of George Tarr: "I move to see if the Town will vote to ask the Select Board to create a Conservation Restriction (CR) on 19 acres total, more or less, on three adjacent Town-owned parcels at the southern end of the Patton gift of 2012; the conservancy, parcel number 27-0006 (632 Asbury St, 9.09 acres), Patton Wells, parcel number 27-0001 (0 Asbury St, 3.9 acres), and the southern/westernmost portion of what is commonly referred to as Patton Homestead, parcel 19-0001 (650 Asbury Street, approximately 6.0 acres, the northern boundary of which to be determined by survey, see Map in Appendix I)." Seconded.

George Tarr explained the importance of preserving each parcel of land. Mr. Tarr questioned the validity of the narrative provided to the town.

Bill Olson (419 Highland St.) stated that the Select Board recommended unfavorable action as allowing the proposal would complicate future plans on the restricted property.

Marc Johnson asked if the Conservation Commission had taken a position on the article. Mr. Johnson said it was a bad idea at the moment because the Town has finally put itself in control of the property.

Virginia Cookson (318 Forest St.) offered a history of the area and spoke in favor of the proposal.

Electronic Vote: In favor 36; Opposed 80 against. Motion fails.

ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator said: "I will now accept a Motion to dissolve." So Moved. Seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Motion carries.

This Annual Town Meeting is now dissolved at 12:57 pm on April 1, 2023.

A True Copy Attest:



Carin A. Kale
Town Clerk

ADDENDUM

ARTICLE 2023/4 1-3 Consent Motion Articles included the following articles

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-1. Compensation/Classification Table

To see if the Town will amend the Personnel Bylaw by adopting changes to the classification and compensation table as set forth in Appendix A, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-6. Water Enterprise Budget

To see if the Town will approve the FY2024 Water Enterprise Budget, as set forth in Appendix F, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$2,285,703*)

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-7. Annual Financial Actions

To see if the Town will authorize the following financial actions, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

- A. To transfer \$2,000 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots and Graves Fund to the General Fund to be used for cemetery purposes;
- B. To transfer \$457,313 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the General Fund to be used for indirect expenses;
- C. To transfer \$2,668.36 from the interest of the Clark Fund to the Conservation Trust Fund for conservation related expenses.

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-8. Hamilton Development Corporation

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,000 to the Hamilton Development Corporation, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$58,000*).

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-9. OPEB Trust Fund

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 for the purpose of funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-11. Revolving Fund Establish Expenditure Limits

To see if the Town will vote to establish the annual spending limit for the Recreation and Emergency Dispensing Services and Clinics Revolving Funds as set forth below in accordance with G.L. c.44, §53E ½, with such updated expenditure limit to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes prior to July 1 in any year, to increase the same for the ensuing fiscal year, provided that at the request of the entity authorized to expend such funds the Select Board may increase such limit for that fiscal year only; or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

- A. Recreation Revolving Fund - \$750,000
- B. EDS & Clinics Revolving Fund - \$200,000

ARTICLE 2023/4 2-12. Community Preservation Budget

To see if the Town will act on the Report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation Budget and specified other projects and appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from community preservation fund annual revenues, specific reserves or other available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, as set forth in Appendix G, or take any action thereon or relative

thereto.

ARTICLE 2023/4 3-2. Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program – Increase Amount of Allowable Reduction

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the last paragraph of G.L. c.59, §5K to allow the maximum reduction of real property taxes for the Senior Tax Work-off Program to be based on 125 volunteer service hours in a given tax year, rather than \$1,500.00, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

