

Town of Easton-Annual Town Meeting
MINUTES
April 25,2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Samuel Staples Elementary School, 515 Morehouse Road, Easton

Present:

David Bindelglass, First Selectman
Kristi Sogofsky, Selectman

Robert Lessler, Selectman
Deborah Szegedi, Town Clerk

Presenters and Attendees:

Art Laske, Chair, Board of Finance
Jon Stinson, Chair Board of Education
Mike D'Agostino, Chair Region 9 Board of Education

About 100-110 Easton Residents, 10 board members.

Meeting livestream available on Facebook and Zoom with over 236 livestream viewers. Recording Available at <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/annual-town-meeting/499116725335664/>

Registrars of Voters checked-in attendees with identification at entrance.

David Bindelglass convened the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting.

The First Selectman wished Happy Birthday to Town Resident Dolly Curtis.

The First Selectman asked for a motion to nominate a Moderator. Ira Kaplan nominated Victor Alfandre. The motion was seconded by Maureen Williams. No further nominations. The nomination was approved by voice vote.

The moderator spoke before we officially started the meeting, he spoke of how we are participating in one of the oldest forms of Democracy and we should be grateful for that opportunity. He also spoke of how a literally half way across the world there is a war going for the right to do what we are doing here tonight and we should be mindful of that as we conduct this meeting and address each other, while our opinions may differ we should do so civilly and politely and in a manner that respects the battle that is going on in Ukraine.

1. Discussion of the proposed Annual Town Budget of \$46,721,617 for fiscal year 2022-2023 as recommended by the Board of Finance to a machine vote.

Presentation by Board of Finance
Presentation by Board of Education
Presentation by Region 9

The Board of Finance Presentation is available on the Town Website

https://www.eastonct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3071/f/pages/2022_budget_presentation_for_public_hearing_fy23_0.pdf

Art Laske, Chair of the Board of Finance summarized the presentation for the budget proposal for FY 2022/2023. Jon Stinson, Chair of the Easton Board of Education, summarized the presentation for the final Board of Education 2022-2023 School Year Budget. Mike D'Agostino, Chair of the Region 9 Board of Education, Summarized the presentation for the Region 9 2022-2023 School Year. The Moderator called for any questions or comments after each presentation. Residents commented. The Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote.

2. Acceptance of the five-year capital plan project.

Art Laske, Chair of the Board of Finance, presented the five-year capital project plan. The Moderator asked for any questions or Public Comment. Having none the Moderator requested that all in favor say "aye" and asked, "all opposed?" Motion passes by voice vote. The five-year capital plan was approved.

3. Set July 1, 2022 – January 2, 2023 for the 2021 Grand List bills.

There was no presenter for this item. The Moderator called for a motion to set July 1, 2022 – January 2, 2023 for the 2021 Grand List bills. Motion was moved and seconded. Moderator asked for discussion there was none. The Moderator requested that all in favor of setting the July 1, 2022 –January 2, 2023 for the 2021 Grand List bills signify by saying "aye" and "all opposed?" Motion was carried by voice vote. The dates for the grand list bills as set out in the motion were adopted.

4. Approve the proposed amendment of the Library Ordinance.

The Moderator called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment of the Library Ordinance. Motion was moved and seconded. Moderator asked if any questions. Residents inquired about what is the Library Ordinance? First Selectman David Bindelglass spoke about the Ordinance. Copy of the Ordinance is available on the Town Website

https://www.eastonct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3071/f/news/library_ordinance.pdf

Veronica Rozo, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees spoke about why we need this ordinance. No further comments. The Moderator requested that all in favor of the proposed amendment of the Library Ordinance signify by saying "aye" and "all opposed?" Motion was carried by voice vote. The proposed amendment of the Library Ordinance was Approved.

5. Discussion and acceptance of an Open Space Warranty Deed for 40 far Horizons Drive from Stefan Abelin.

The Moderator called for a motion to open discussion. The motion was moved and seconded. Dori Wollen, Chair of the Conservation Commission spoke in depth about this Open Space Warranty Deed. The Moderator asked for any questions or Public Comment. 1 Resident had a question. No further questions or comments. The Moderator requested that all in favor of the proposed Open Space Warranty Deed for 40 far Horizons Drive from Stefan Abelin signify by saying "aye" and "all opposed?" Motion was carried by voice vote. The Open Space Warranty Deed for 40 far Horizons Drive from Stefan Abelin was accepted.

6. Approve the Demolition Delay Ordinance.

The Moderator called for a motion to open discussion. The motion was moved and seconded. First Selectman David Bindelglass spoke about the ordinance. A Historical Society Member spoke about the Ordinance. Selectmen Robert Lessler and Kristi Sogofsky also spoke about the Ordinance. Members of the public commented. No further questions or comments. The Moderator indicated that the item would go to a machine vote on May 3. Copy of the Ordinance is available online https://www.eastonct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3071/f/news/demo_delay_ordinance.pdf

7. Approve the Town of Easton to sell 18.70+/- acres of the property at 18-22 South Park Avenue to the Aspetuck Land Trust for \$470,000.

The Moderator called for a motion to open discussion. The motion was moved and seconded. First Selectman David Bindelglass spoke about what we are voting on. Bill Krakel Easton Resident and President of the Aspetuck Land Trust spoke about the 18.70+/- acres of the property at 18-22 South Park Avenue. Selectman Bindelglass spoke of the passage of the Land Use Ordinance that it is mandated that any sale, lease or purchase of public land must be voted on and go through the Town Meeting process that's why it this is being presented to you. Copy of the Land Use Ordinance can be found here <https://ecode360.com/EA2974/laws/LF1426606.pdf>

The Moderator anticipating a large amount of comments requested that comments be kept to the topic at hand and be limited to 3 minutes. The Moderator opened the floor to public comment. Several Residents spoke. No further questions or comments. The Moderator moved to that the Town of Easton to sell 18.70+/- acres of the property at 18-22 South Park Avenue to the Aspetuck Land Trust for \$470,000 to a machine vote on May 3. The Moderator requested that all in favor signify by saying "aye" and "all opposed?" The Moderator called for a Motion to adjourn the Town Meeting. Motion moved and seconded.

Adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School to vote on the Annual Budget for 2022-2023, Demolition Delay Ordinance and the Town of Easton to sell 18.70+/- acres of the property at 18-22 South Park Avenue to the Aspetuck Land Trust for \$470,000.

The Moderator adjourned the Town Meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School to vote on agenda items #2, #7 and #8. No further discussion or public comment. The Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Submitted by,

Deborah Szegedi

Easton Town Clerk