

## **Town Meeting Minutes 250th Annual Town Meeting of New Haven, Vermont**

The legal voters of the Town of New Haven are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall in New Haven, Vermont on **Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 4:00 pm** to act on Articles 1 through 4; and on **Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 5 through 27.

Moderator, Lanny Smith introduced himself, Selectboard members Kathy Barrett, Pam Marsh, Kathleen Ready, Roger Boise, Charlie Roy and Town Clerk, Pam Kingman.

This year the Town went first, followed by the School meeting. There will be a dinner break between 6:00 – 7:00 pm, to reconvene following the dinner break.

**ARTICLE 1.** Shall the Town of New Haven vote to pay real estate taxes to the Town Treasurer on October 1, 2012; delinquent taxes will be subject to interest charges of one percent per month, and an eight percent penalty charged against them from October 1, 2012?

Kathy Barrett made the motion; seconded by Raymonde Bessette.

All in favor; none opposed.

**Passed**

**ARTICLE 2.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven accept the Auditors' Report for the year 2011?

Sue Ford made the motion; seconded by Matt Ford.

All in favor; none opposed.

**Passed**

**ARTICLE 3.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt future zoning bylaws, subdivision regulations and amendments there to by Australian Ballot?

John Madden made the motion, seconded by Darwin Lee.

John Madden – In New Haven we have zoning bylaws and subdivision bylaws. He reviewed his handout that he had placed on the seats prior to town meeting. Today we are voting on whether to vote on them by Australian ballot. He is urging folks to vote yes so they can have a say.

Susie Leonard – Past life as a planner, the regulations have a lot of different parts and she feels it would be a nightmare to vote on them by Australian ballot.

Jim Walsh (Chair of the Planning Commission) – The Planning Commission has worked on some amendments for the last year, and are holding a Public Hearing on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. The public is always invited to the Planning Commission meetings. Jim reviewed the process, the PC holds a public hearing; they pass on their amendments and changes to the Selectboard, which in turn holds a public hearing.

From all the information gathered from the public, the Selectboard either approves or disapproves of the changes. Jim agreed with Susie Leonard and that it would be costly for the town to have Australian Ballot votes on all changes.

Mike Lee – Disagrees with Jim., Zoning has an effect on everybody, and it should be our decision to vote on this. We are putting our trust in 5 or so people, and years from now the Selectboard members change.

Bill Brooks – He is a PC member. Another group that reviews what they do is the Development Review Board; there are actually about 25 people who have oversight of on zoning. One year ago voted in the new Town Plan. All the zoning they are looking at now springs from the Town Plan already adopted. He invited all to the PC meetings and thinks it is overkill to have separate meetings on all the recommendations.

Francie Caccavo – She too is a PC member. When there are major issues she hopes all will get involved. These latest amendments are minor changes that they were asked to look at by the DRB. They are trying to make the process smoother, and follow the Town Plan. All PC members are volunteers, and they meet 1 -2 times a month. It is more productive for people to get involved sooner, instead of waiting until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Bill Brim – He purchased his house in 2002 and feels there is no consistency in the way zoning applicants are treated. Feels he has had to jump through hoops. Board members are always changing.

Jim Kendal – Article 3 is a nightmare. We have competent people on these boards, and they are doing a great job.

Jerry Smiley – Also a professional planner. Doesn't like that as few as 10 people are deciding on new ordinance; it must be more complex than the zoning we had 30 years ago. Don't feel willing to give up democratic process to do this.

Pam Marsh – In the 4 years she has been on the Selectboard, the PC has come to them with 3 amendments. The Selectboard adopted 1 and rejected 2. The PC is working on technical amendments. Passing Article 3 would mean voting on every single amendment, which would take too much time; concerned that we wouldn't be in time with the Town Plan. She urged all to vote against and to start attending meetings.

Tom Fyles – Will this be voice vote or show of hands?  
Moderator, Lanny Smith – When the discussion stops, he will request a show of hands or someone can request a paper ballot, if member sustained, then 7 people need to back him / her up.

John Madden – Up until 2004, when the State changed the law, zoning was voted on by Australian ballot in addition to the Town Plan. Requests a paper ballot.  
Moderator, Lanny Smith - 6 others need to request paper ballot. More than 6 hands raised.

Donna Fournier – Worried about the future of Route 7, we are very lucky in New Haven. She worries about 5 people determining how this ends up. A number of her neighbors couldn't make it tonight, because they are at work. Whether you agree with John Madden or not, he has fought heart and soul to preserve the incredible beauty of our town.

Pam Marsh points out that historically the town has always approved zoning bylaws by Australian Ballot, especially spot zoning on Route 7. Only exception is recent votes against amending the Town Plan and Zoning on Route 7 on the Dupoise Petition.

Mike Lee feels that having the Selectboard adopt the zoning stifles democracy, and that it is more democratic to vote by Australian Ballot.

Jim Gallott – The PC serves the town's interest, holds open meetings. Doesn't think it is fair to the PC after all their hours of hard work to have zoning bylaws go to Australian Ballot, then get voted down. Urge to vote this down.

Linda Horn – Appreciates comments on all sides, called the question.

Moderator, Lanny Smith – Asked for a show of hands on calling the question. Ayes have it.

Lanny read Article 3 again.

The Board of Civil Authority asked voters to line up A - K and L – Z, have their names checked off the checklist and receive their paper ballots.  
Paper ballots were then counted.

24 yes / 59 no – Article 3 was defeated.

**ARTICLE 4.** To transact, vote and act upon any further non-binding business, which may legally come before this meeting.

Rick Shappy - thought it would be a good idea to invest in a sound system for Town Hall, allowing everyone to hear better. He gave an overview of the work that was done in the Town Hall. The drop ceiling was removed, several tiles have been saved and the School is using them. New insulation was blown in on top of the old insulation. New lights and ballasts were installed, and are more energy efficient. Acoustically it proved to be a problem, with a lot of echo. Acoustic panels were installed on the walls and a curtain hung along the ¾ wall; which have both helped immensely. The southern rafters on the building were strengthened in the event the town would like to put solar panels on the roof. Rick was recognized for all of his work. (Rick was our project manager for the ceiling work in the Town Hall.)

Al Karnatz - asked to take a moment to recognize all the volunteers. He would also like to thank the Auditors for their dedication to people who are still living; and recognized Bill Paine as this year's dedicatee; applause.

Kathy Barrett - asked all the volunteers to stand up and be recognized; applause.  
Sue Ford - Liked the remembrance page, but is disappointed that the dedication is not for someone who has passed on. Sue asked Moderator, Lanny Smith why he was not on the ballot running for Moderator. Lanny explained he had been away at the time petitions were due, but if folks wanted to write him in he is fine with that. Other Write –In candidates are Brad Bull for Beeman School Director and Susie Leonard for the 1 year Lister term.

Pam Marsh - Asked about the time of Town Meeting, in order to change the time; the town would have to vote on it. She asked if we should consider changing the time.

Moderator, Lanny Smith - asked for a show of hands for 4:00, 6:00 or 7:00 pm. 6:00 pm had the largest show of hands.

Tim Bouton - He would like to go back to voting on how the Selectboard spends money from special funds.

Kathy Barrett - The town does in part by voting on the budgets, but it's not specified.

Bill Brooks - asked about outside agency information. All of these services ask the town for money; he questioned how many residents actually benefit from the services, he would like to see that information in the report. He questioned the number of hours of service for the Counseling Service in New Haven. He wondered if the number was correct.

Barb Torian - spoke about Front Porch Forum, a web based site that offers the opportunity for our community to advertise services; chat with one another, etc. The initial startup fee is \$2,500; she asked if anybody who owns a business in town if they would like to donate money towards the startup fee.

Francie Caccavo - who owns Olivia's Crouton's said her company would donate some money.

Suzu Roorda - pointed out information / sign up sheets on the back table about Trails in New Haven; Crime Watch; small items wanted to put into the time capsule for the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday for New Haven.

Pam Marsh - spoke about the many volunteer positions the Selectboard must fill each year, the list is in the Town Report. She added this year to honor all the volunteers currently serving our Town were treated to the Annual Chocolate Delight Night, put on by The Friends of the Library.

Kathy Barrett - recognized the Town Office staff: Treasurer, Barb Torian, Clerk, Pam Kingman, Assistant Clerk and Assistant Zoning Administrator, Jill DeVoe, Zoning Administrator, Dave Wetmore and Highway Staff, Katie Reilley.

Lanny Smith - mentioned the Mt. Abe School Board decided to not mail their annual report this year, and saved about \$6,000. Asked peoples' reaction. Not mailing the high school report generally supported.

Barb Torian - asked if everyone wanted their town report mailed or not? The majority of the people present want them mailed.

Tim Bouton - There has been an opening in Town for a Conservation Commissioner, and if anyone was interested they should see the Selectboard. End of discussion.

#### **ARTICLE 5.** To elect the following Town Officers by Australian Ballot:

Auditor	3 years
Beeman School Director	3 years
Delinquent Tax Collector	1 year
Grand Jurors (2)	1 year
Library Trustee	3 years
Lister	3 years
Lister	1 year
Moderator	1 year
Mt. Abe School Director	3 Years
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Town Agent	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	1 year

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 6.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven adopt the proposed Road Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,070,640.46, a portion thereof in the amount of \$ 759,842.60, to be raised by taxes, for the purpose of maintaining town roads for the year 2012? By Australian Ballot.

Susan Smiley - The Addison Independent mentioned the road budget increasing by a substantial amount.

Roger Boise – Most of that is for paving. We need to cold plan and re-grade Sawyer Road. East St. needs shim and overlay; and North St. at the intersection, they will pave 1.43 miles from Plank Road, but that is only if we get grant money. It is an overall increase of [need to fill in number] from last year, which is \$19.70 per hundred thousand of assessed value.

Jim Gallott – No complaints; congratulations for telling us what you are doing with the roads it is wonderful to have this information.

Tim Bouton – Asked about the equipment fund and bridge fund, why the surplus not applied to even out the budget.

Kathy Barrett - explained we purchased a backhoe using money from the equipment fund; however, when we had a surplus, we put the money back into the equipment fund, as we will expect to be purchasing a new truck in this year. The bridge fund was established to offset the cost of major repairs to our bridges. If some bridges fail it will be a huge expense. Felt it was better to put the unused funds from the repair line item

into the bridge fund. Discussed renting a backhoe, vs. purchasing; purchasing made more sense and was more cost effective.

Roger Boise – We should be proud to be paying for stuff and not paying over time like other towns. We don't owe money on any of our equipment.

John Madden asked for an update on the Nash Bridge.

Roger Boise – We are still on track for a 4 year plan; should be a meeting coming up this fall.

Julie Olson – Budgeted for the Road Commissioner to make more money this year?

Kathy Barrett – That was put in when Roger Boise wasn't going to run again for

Selectboard. That amount was for someone not on the Board.

End of discussion.

**ARTICLE 7.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget in the amount of \$ 651,748,70, a portion thereof in the amount of \$ 380,220.79, to be raised by taxes. This amount to be increased by any additional monies voted affirmatively by other articles of this Annual Meeting or voted affirmatively by Australian Ballot on March 6, 2012. Tax rate to be determined by the Selectboard. By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 8.** Shall the voters of New Haven vote to expend up to \$ 69,000.00, from the Road Equipment Fund for the replacement of the Ford F550 truck; the new truck to include a plow, dump body and sander? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

State Representative, Harvey Smith spoke.

(Adjourn for dinner at 5:45 pm )

**ARTICLE 9.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,700.00 for the Addison County Community Action Group (ACCAG), d.b.a. HOPE?  
By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 10.** Shall the Town of New Haven appropriate \$500.00 for ADDISON COUNTY COURT DIVERSION AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECTS, INC. to help provide restorative projects for offenders who have potential to learn from their mistakes and avoid incarceration and a criminal record, said sum to come from Town Funds? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 11.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,753.25 for the Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 12.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,800.00 for the Addison County Parent/Child Center? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 13.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$750.00 for Addison County Readers, Inc. to be taken from Town Funds for the purpose of improving literacy skills for children under 5 years of age? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 14.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate \$3,745.00 for Addison County Transit Resources to be taken from Town funds for the purpose of maintaining and improving transportation services for elders, persons with disabilities and the general public? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 15.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$500.00 for the Bristol Family Center? By Australian Ballot.  
No discussion.

**ARTICLE 16.** Will the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$2,200.00 to Bristol Parks, Arts Recreation Department for support of its programs, including the Pottery



Studio, Skate Park, Ice Rink, and The Hub/Youth Center, which have been found to serve the Five Town area? Said sum to come from the General Fund. By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 17.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$700.00 for the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 18.** Shall the voters of Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,750.00 for the Counseling Service of Addison County? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 19.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$700.00 for the Elderly Services Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 20.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$400.00 for the Hospice Volunteer Services? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 21.** Shall the Town of New Haven vote to appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to the Addison County Humane Society, Inc. to support their mission to promote the ethical treatment of and the prevention of cruelty to all domestic animals and forms of wildlife? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 22.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$1,075.00 for the John W. Graham Emergency Shelter Services, Inc.? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 23.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$500.00 for the Open Door Clinic? By Australian Ballot.

Susie Leonard - Is a volunteer for the Open Door Clinic. She said they submitted updated numbers for New Haven's Town Report, but they did not make it in there. She said if anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact her.

**ARTICLE 24.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$390.00 for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 25.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$525.00 for Vermont Adult Learning? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.


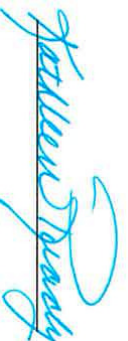
**ARTICLE 26.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate \$215.00 for the Vermont Center for Independent Living? By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 27.** Shall the voters of the Town of New Haven appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to Womansafe, Inc. to support their mission to: work toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against woman and their children through direct service, education and social change? Said sum to come from General Funds. By Australian Ballot.

No discussion.

Kathy Barrett made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm, seconded by Pam Marsh.  
All in favor.

Attest:   
  
New Haven Town Clerk