

Town of Darien
Representative Town Meeting
Rules Committee
Regular Meeting-Monday, January 3, 2012
Draft

Attendance: Karen Armour (Ch), Gary Swenson, Seth Morton, Joanne Hennessey, Sarah Seelye, Anthony Imbimbo, Dennis Maroney, Marty Magida, Ted Hawkins, Peter Kelly, Debra Ritchie

Absent: MariLu Cleary, Nora McIree

Audience: Wayne Fox(Town Counsel), John Van der Kieft, Nina Miller, David Gurliacci, Lloyd Plehaty, Carolyn Schoonmaker

Call to Order: Ms Armour called the meeting to order at 8:08PM

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the December 19 Rules Committee meeting were approved unanimously with minor corrections.

Flood and Erosion Control Board: The objective is to have the RTM pass a resolution removing the powers for flood and erosion control from the Environmental Protection Commission(EPC) and place the powers under the Board of Selectmen directly.

Mr. Fox explained that under the existing organization there could be a conflict of interest within the EPC where the EPC could be ruling on its own findings. One possibility would be that the Board of Selectmen could have an Advisory Commission to start. That Commission could evolve into a formal Board in the future.

A second concept would be that the Board of Selectmen uses the Advisory Commission to establish a flood and erosion control plan as a basis for reviewing those issues.

A discussion of various aspects of separating the EPC and FECB powers ensued. Mr. Maroney asked who would ultimately decide an issue. Mr. Fox pointed out that it is not unusual for several different bodies to have an interest in a given issue. Ultimately, the Board of Selectmen makes a decision.

Ms Hennessey moved that there be an amendment to Code item EPC-22-27, to delete the powers of the EPC relating to flood and erosion control. That the Board of Selectmen be requested to form an advisory group to oversee issues involving flooding in Darien and to propose solutions. That the Board of Selectmen form a flood advisory commission in the town of Darien. Mr. Hawkins seconded. The motion carried 10 For, 1 Against and 0 Abstentions, with Mr. Kelly voting No.

Mr. Maroney moved and it was seconded that T.G.S.&A. be Primary with Public Works, and P. Z. &H. Secondary. The motion passed unanimously

Pending Items:

Chapter 13 - Appendix B- RTM Rules of Procedure

Ms Seelye reported that a Public Hearing on Chapter 13 revisions and revisions to the RTM Rules of Procedure had been set for January 17, 2012, and Public Notice had been given.

Teachers Contract

Ms Armour reported that this item will be on the Agenda for the January RTM meeting and that memos outlining the terms and economics of the contract would be issued this week. Education had been assigned Primary with Finance and Budget secondary.

Chose to Reuse

This item will be on the January agenda of the RTM. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes for each side, followed by Q&A. Ms Armour noted that Greg Palmer will be a spokesman for and alternative approach to banning plastic bags. Leila Wetmore will be speaking in favor of the proposal. Discussion ensued about the procedure for the debate and developing legislation.

Ms. Ritchie moved the following assignments and it was seconded: Public Works, Primary; TGS&A, PH&S, Finance and Budget, Secondary. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda for January 23 RTM Meeting

1. **Teachers Contract**— Education Committee is primary and F&B Committee is secondary.
2. **Chose to Reuse**- Informational Presentations and Discussion. Each side will be allotted 10 minutes to present, then there will be 20 minutes for Questions and Answers.

The Agenda was approved unanimously.

Other Business

Ms Armour appointed a Sub-Committee headed by Mr. Maroney with Ms. Ritchie, and Ms Hennessey to suggest operational procedures to improve operations of the Representative Town Meeting. They are to report back on February 27, 2012.

Mr. Morton moved and it was seconded to Adjourn.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Clerk