



## 2013 CONCORD ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

## 2013 Annual Town Meeting

- [Articles 1-2 & Consent Calendar](#)
- [Article 6-14](#)
- [Article 8-55](#)
- [Articles 40-63](#)
- [Special Town Meeting](#)

## 2013 Special Town Meeting

December 4, 2013

The 2013 Special Town Meeting minutes printed below are excerpted from the official minutes of this Meeting. For the complete text of all votes taken at this Meeting, contact the Town Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to the Warrant signed by the Selectmen on October 21, 2013, Town Moderator Eric Van Loon called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at the Concord-Carlisle High School. The Moderator declared that the meeting was properly called and that a sufficient number of voters were present to permit opening the meeting.

Upon a Motion by Mr. Wieand that was duly seconded, the following was Voted: that this Meeting be held in the Concord-Carlisle High School Auditorium, Cafeteria, and if necessary, the Upper Gym; that the halls be connected by a public address system and speakers so that the proceedings in each room can be heard and participated in by all voters present in any hall, and that the proceedings in all three halls constitute parts of one and the same Meeting.

- [Cover](#)
- [Town Officials](#)
- [Board of Selectmen](#)
- [Town Manager](#)
- 2013 Town Meetings
- [General Government](#)
- [Public Safety](#)
- [Municipal Light](#)
- [Public Works](#)
- [Community Development](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Human Services](#)
- [Finance](#)

Mr. Van Loon announced that he had appointed the following as Assistant Moderators: Margaret B. Briggs, Gary R. Clayton and Carolyn C. Flood. All were duly sworn to the faithful and impartial discharge of their duties. Upon a Motion by Jeff Wieand that was duly seconded, it was Voted to elect Margaret Briggs as the Deputy Moderator to preside over this meeting if the Moderator elected by the Town is unable to serve in that position.

The Moderator noted that he had appointed Gregory Englund as Head Teller. David Karr was appointed Ballot Supervisor, to be assisted by Cynthia Rainey and Jimi Two Feathers. The Tellers and Ballot Counters were then sworn to faithfully and impartially perform their respective duties. He introduced Johanna Glazer, who was serving as the Town Meeting Procedure Resource Person for this Meeting, and Leslie Koplou, who was available to provide technical assistance with presentations.

Fire Chief Mark Cotreau reviewed emergency procedures in the event of an emergency. Mr. Van Loon reminded all to keep a voting slip handy, since it identifies those entitled to vote and will be needed on all votes taken by a show of hands or a standing counted vote. He called upon Concord Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to bring the flags forward. Before the business of the meeting commenced, he asked for all to stand and remain silent for a moment as he repeated the words of The Concord Reflection: As we begin this year's meeting together, let us each reflect on how, through this Town Meeting, we and our neighbors gather together to seek to provide for our common good. As we deliberate and vote, let us remember that the passions of the moment are not always the best guide for our conduct in the future. And if a Town Meeting action requires sacrifice by some, may it be only where the common goal is worthy of the sacrifice. Let us approach every issue, no matter how difficult or divisive, with open hearts and with open minds. May we listen with respect to each other and, even maintain a willingness to risk changing our minds. And above all, may we each maintain a saving sense of humor, so that the debates at this Town Meeting will not be a source of division among us when our business here is concluded.

Mr. Van Loon thanked Town Officials, citizens and employees for the long hours spent preparing for the proceedings. He thanked the Regional School Committee, faculty, students and staff for accommodating us. He noted that the minutes would be kept by Town Clerk Anita Tekle. He thanked Town Meeting Coordinator Laurel Landry. He pointed out the presence of Green Cards, and invited residents to volunteer for service on a committee. The formal business of the meeting began at 7:16 pm. Mr. Van Loon announced that to keep discussion flowing and facilitate participation by as many as possible, initial article presentations would be limited to five minutes and citizen commentary to two minutes each.

## Article 1. Land Acquisition—55 and 55R Knox Trail (Acton)

School Committee Member Johanna Boynton made the following Motion, which was duly seconded: that the Town authorize the Selectmen to acquire by purchase, for municipal purposes including vehicle storage, repair, fueling, and other uses, the fee easement and/or other property interests in, on, over, across, under and along all or any portion of the property located at 55 and 55R Knox Trail in Acton, Massachusetts, and authorize the Selectmen to grant rights in a portion of property to the Concord School Committee, to be used for parking, maintenance and fueling of school buses and other educational purposes, and further that the Town appropriate the sum of \$700,000 to be expended by the Selectmen for such acquisition and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen to borrow said sum.

A Motion to Amend Ms. Boynton's Motion, made by Peter Lowitt and duly seconded, to add the phrase "subject to administrative Site Plan Approval by the Town of Acton" Failed to Pass, on a counted vote of 330 in favor and 541 opposed, with 871 votes cast. After further discussion, William Plummer made the following Motion to Amend, which was duly seconded, to add the phrase "but not to be used by a contractor in support of outsourced transportation" following the phrase "...other educational purposes." At 8:54 pm, John Flynn made a Motion to Call the Question, which was duly seconded and Passed by a two-thirds vote, and so declared by the Moderator. A vote was then taken on Mr. Plummer's amendment, which Passed on a show of hands, and was so declared by the Moderator. A vote was then taken on Ms. Boynton's motion, as amended by Mr. Plummer, which Passed by a two-thirds Vote, and was so declared by the Moderator.

#### Article 2. Land Acquisition—State Land on Commonwealth Avenue

Upon a Motion made by Carmin Reiss and duly seconded, it was Voted by a two-thirds Majority, and was so declared by the Moderator: to authorize the Selectmen to seek legislation for transfer to the Town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance of fee, easement and/or other property interests in, on, over, across, under and along a 0.67-acre portion of the property located at 407-9 Commonwealth Avenue in Concord, and authorize the Selectmen to purchase such property interests with funds available to the Board, without further appropriation, for municipal purposes, including the construction of amenities to support the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, including parking.

#### Article 3. Repeal of Drinking Water in Single-Serve Pet Bottles Bylaw (By Petition)

At 9:06 pm, Michael Benn made the following Motion that was duly seconded: to repeal in its entirety the bylaw known as "Drinking Water in Single-Serve PET Bottles Bylaw" that was adopted under Article 32 of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

Pro and con microphones were used for the discussion. At 9:24 pm, Tom Valle made a motion that was duly seconded, that when the vote is taken, that paper ballots be used. Mr. Valle's Motion Failed to Pass. After further discussion, at 9:39, Mark Weltner made a motion to Call the Question, which was duly seconded and Passed by a two-thirds Vote, and was so declared by the Moderator. A Vote was then taken on Mr. Benn's motion, which overwhelmingly Failed to Pass in all three rooms, and was so declared by the Moderator.

At 9:42 pm, upon a Motion duly made and seconded, the Special Town Meeting was adjourned and dissolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita S. Tekle

Town Clerk

Attendance: 1,043 registered voters



Town Meeting, March 1960 at the National Guard Armory on Everett St. Livingston Hall was the Town Moderator and Connie Lawrence the Town Clerk. Note how everyone is dressed up in their Sunday-Go-To-Meeting clothes!

Alessandro Macone