

## TOWN MEETING 2016

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Moderator Michael Caccavo opened Town Meeting at 9:07 on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at Twinfield Union School. A total of 173 out of 1,093 registered voters checked in for the open meeting. Moderator Caccavo read announcements and explained the rules for Town Meeting. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. During the meeting, the crowd passed the hat and raised \$521.10 for the Onion River Food Shelf.

**Article 1.** To elect all Town Officers required by Law:

<b>Moderator</b>	Michael Caccavo	1 year
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Bobbi Brimblecombe	1 year
<b>Town Treasurer</b>	Bobbi Brimblecombe	1 year
<b>Selectperson</b>		3 years

Laurie Colgan was nominated. Moved and seconded to have the clerk cast one ballot. All in favor.

	Laurie Colgan	3 years
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<b>Auditor</b>		3 years
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Doris Dufresne was nominated. Moved and seconded to have the clerk cast one ballot. All in favor.

	Doris Dufresne	3 years
<b>Lister</b>		3 years

Karen O'Donnell was nominated. Moved and seconded to have the clerk cast one ballot. All in favor.

	Karen O'Donnell	3 years
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<b>Collector of Delinquent Taxes</b>	Bobbi Brimblecombe	1 year
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<b>First Constable</b>	Shawn Codling	1 year
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<b>Second Constable</b>	James Arisman	1 year
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<b>Town Juror</b>	Michael Caccavo	1 year
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<b>Town Agent</b>	Michael Caccavo	1 year
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<b>Budget Committee Member</b>	Betsy Brigham	5 years
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<b>Library Trustee</b>	Anne Reed	3 years
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<b>Library Trustee</b>	Sonia Carrasco	3 years
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**Article 2.** To elect School Directors to serve on the Union District Board, as follows:

**School Director** 3 years

Jill Wilson was nominated. Moved and seconded to have the clerk cast one ballot. All in favor.

Jill Wilson 3 years

At this point in the meeting, at Tom Maclay's request, those assembled held a moment of silence for John Warshow.

**Article 3.** To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

Moved and seconded to accept the article as printed.

Fire Chief Tim Maclay explained that awards have recently been given to firefighters in recognition of their years of faithful service. Jacob Gouge, Rodney Dimick, Dolly Dimick, and John Taylor: 5 years. Hazel May: 10 years. Tim Morris and Darrell Burkhalter: over 25 years. Tim Maclay: over 45 years. Tom Maclay and Ronald Pitkin: over 50 years.

Chris Martin spoke on behalf of the Selectboard to recognize John Warshow's more than 20 years of service to Marshfield. The Town Report is dedicated to John.

Liza Earle-Centers spoke on behalf of the Library Board. The Library is having a volunteer appreciation day in April but the Board wants to recognize Janet Nielsen for her service to the Library. She has served as volunteer Librarian on Tuesday afternoons for several years, saving the town thousands of dollars.

Marilyn Davis thanked the families of all of those who volunteer their time.

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$1,006,683 allocated as follows, with \$255,107 from other income, \$107,861 previous year surplus to be applied and \$643,715 to be raised in taxes:

\$254,476 for the payment of indebtedness and general expenses (\$110,015 from other income and \$144,461 from surplus and taxes);

\$603,960 for the support of highways and bridges (\$87,297 from other income, \$51,663 from surplus and taxes);

\$63,548 in support of the Marshfield Fire Department (all from surplus and taxes);

\$21,445 in support of the Planning and Zoning Department (\$2,000 from permit fees, \$19,445 from surplus and taxes);

\$2,250 in support of the Marshfield Recreation Committee (all from surplus and taxes);

\$61,004 in support of the Old Schoolhouse Common (\$25,330 from building lease/rentals, \$30,465 allocated from other town departments, \$5,209 from surplus and taxes).

Moved and seconded to adopt the article as warned.

Selectboard Chair Andy Perchlik explained that the Selectboard's goal is to not raise taxes but to still provide the services that the citizens need. He noted that the Selectboard's budget is roughly \$1,000 over what was raised last year. The Board gave employees a 1% raise this year. He referred voters to pages 16 and 17 in the town report for a comparison of this year's budget to that of prior years. He noted that the Board added \$5,000 to the Planning budget. The Town applied for a grant to study the current zoning regulations. The Town did not receive the grant but the Board felt that the project is worth pursuing and

hopefully the work that will be completed with this budget will allow us to be successful in getting a grant in the future. He explained that the Board has heard from people that the coverage we receive from our contract with the Washington County Sheriff is not enough, and so the Board signed a three-month trial contract with the Vermont State Police. They did not commit to the full year because the contract is expensive, and voters will be asked to decide later today whether they want to continue that coverage.

Betsy Brigham noted that the budget has decreased and she wondered what the employee raises have been over the last few years. Treasurer Bobbi Brimblecombe did not have the information at hand but believes the raises have been between 1 and 2.5% over the last few years. She will post the information on the Town's website.

Betsy explained that one request for an appropriation was inadvertently overlooked when the Budget Committee met to discuss the requests. She moved to increase the Selectboard's budget by \$100 to support Our House. Beth Stern seconded.

Rich Phillips questioned whether it would be better to do this under Article 15, where the Budget Committee's recommendations are voted. Moderator Caccavo explained that this is the correct time to do it. Increasing the Selectboard budget by \$100 with the recommendation that they support Our House is allowed. Adding a new request to Article 15 would not be allowed.

Beth Stern moved to amend the amendment to add another \$200 and encourage the Selectboard to pay it to Home Share Now. She explained that this organization mailed a request for funding but the request was never received by the Town. Faeterri Silver asked what happened to the request from the People's Health and Wellness Clinic. Bobbi Brimblecombe explained that they did not submit a request but that is not unusual; some years they do and some years they don't.

Marilyn Davis asked voters to consider the difference between a request that was overlooked and a request that was not received. Mike Caccavo explained that the Our House request was overlooked because it was included in a letter thanking the Town for last year's appropriation. The Town did not receive a request from Home Share Now.

The amendment to the amendment passed by voice vote. The amendment to add \$300 to the budget passed by voice vote.

Allen Banbury asked if the Selectboard could estimate the cost savings that the Town will see as a result of the mild winter. Andy Perchlik explained that the savings was included in the surplus that is being used to lower taxes for the coming year, but it is difficult to estimate the amount of the savings because each winter spans two tax years.

Lincoln Earle-Centers pointed out that we should be using the term Selectboard or Selectpersons instead of Selectmen.

All in favor of the article as amended.

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$76,822 in support of the Jaquith Public Library.

Moved and seconded to adopt the article as warned.

Jules Rabin spoke in appreciation of the Jaquith Library, noting that Emerson and Thoreau were part of a vibrant intellectual society, and he feels that our Library provides a good platform to keep us in touch with the intellectual activities of our town; it is a wonderful adjunct to public education. He thanked Librarian

Susan Green and the Library Trustees. Mike Caccavo noted that the library activities are advertised on Front Porch Forum, and anyone can sign up to be on the email list. Susan invited people to become library patrons.

All in favor.

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$6,455 in support of the Marshfield Historical Society.

Moved and seconded to adopt the article as warned.

Winnie Valenza thanked the Historical Society for the wonderful job they did setting up the Hap Hayward room and making the displays available whenever the library is open. She feels that it is a wonderful asset.

All in favor.

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$8,500 for the support, improvement and repair of the cemeteries.

Moved and seconded to adopt the article as warned.

Lucy Blue has been doing research on green burials and urged people to consider green cemeteries.

All in favor.

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$15,000 in support of the Cabot Ambulance Service.

Moved and seconded to adopt the article as warned.

All in favor.

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$5,500 in support of the Plainfield Fire and Rescue Service.

Moved and seconded to adopt the article as warned.

All in favor.

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to explore other options for ambulance services.

Moved and seconded to adopt the article as warned.

Tim Maclay explained that the reason for exploring other options is because Cabot Ambulance is experiencing staffing difficulties and can't respond to many calls. East Montpelier Ambulance Service would be much faster. It would be much more expensive but the service would be good.

Chris Martin explained that the Selectboard has received some complaints about service and response times. They want to know if voters want them to research what our options are and what it would cost. He thinks

it would probably be in the range of \$45,000 - \$50,000 for a paid service. He noted that's a rough estimate, and service is usually billed on a per-capita basis.

Beth Stern asked if switching services would replace both the Cabot Ambulance and the Plainfield Fast Squad. Chris explained that if the article passes, the Selectboard would sit down with all of the various services to see where they are headed.

Wes Cate recommended talking to East Montpelier, noting they have put a lot of resources into upgrading their service. It's closer to some parts of Marshfield and they always have someone there.

Tim Booth would like to know how many calls we have a year. The Town Report states that Cabot responded to 44 calls in Marshfield in 2015. He doesn't think it would be appropriate to double the ambulance budget at this time.

Jules Rabin noted that if estimates are correct, the East Montpelier service would amount to about \$1,000 per call plus what we pay individually. He feels that the Selectboard should investigate with other towns the possibility of consolidating services.

Doris Dufresne asked what the tax implications would be of spending \$45,000 on a service. She was referred to page 17 of the Town Report; it would be about \$35 for a \$100,000 house.

Marilyn Davis noted that years ago when her husband had a heart attack, the ambulance was there in 3 minutes. Recently when a friend needed an ambulance it took 20 minutes, and that's a long time to wait.

Suzan Condon stated that she lives close to the Cabot border and would hate to see the Town do away with the service altogether. She feels that we should be helping them to recruit more volunteers.

Allen Banbury feels that the Selectboard has the responsibility to investigate other options without asking voters' permission. He also feels that \$1,000 per life saved is not excessive.

Jack Hoffman noted that the article is only authorizing the Board to investigate and come back with a report for residents to vote on. He also noted that we are charged by population, not by the call (except for what the individual would be charged). Chris Martin explained that when the Board gets a complaint about a service, they want to know if these are isolated incidents, so they wanted to generate a discussion among a larger group of people.

Dan Chodorkoff noted that the new ambulance service replaces what we have now, we are talking about an increase of about \$20,000 or \$17.34 per \$100,000 house.

Rich Baker suggested bringing various options to Town Meeting next year so that we have alternatives to vote on.

Dwight Baker explained that this issue has been years in the making, with the ebb and flow of membership in Cabot.

Barbara Bendix stated that with something that's a matter of life and death, one complaint is one too many.

Rachel Gouge identified herself as the Training Officer of the Cabot Ambulance Service. She stated that they are very dedicated but they are losing members faster than they can recruit. She thinks looking into the various alternatives to see what we can do is a good idea.

The article passed by voice vote.

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to enter into a contract with the Vermont State Police for law enforcement, through the end of 2016, at a cost of \$13,000?

Moved and seconded to adopt the article as warned.

A voter voiced his opposition to the “school to prison pipeline.” He stated that the country spent \$5 trillion to go to war, and we should not be giving money to the Vermont State Police to scapegoat and stigmatize the poor. He feels that it would be better to use the money to help poor kids go to school, or we could give it to the library. He feels that the police should ask the state for money if they need it. He feels that they never get the right criminals, and the prison population has tripled since 1970. He feels that these discussions matter, because we should not be giving any more money for war and police and stigmatizing the poor. When asked his name, he first refused to identify himself but later gave his name as Randall Meyer.

Jacob Gouge stated that excessive speed and driving under the influence can result in tragedy. As a firefighter he has worked with the police and hasn’t met any bad ones. He noted that being a police officer doesn’t make you a bad person.

Sarah Hooker asked what the police did during the three-month trial period. Andy Perchlik replied that they patrolled; they were not just doing speed traps. He noted that they gave out more warnings than tickets.

Dan Chodorkoff asked if we get any revenue from the contract. Andy stated that we are looking into whether that would be possible, but to get revenue from tickets written on Route 2, we would need to have a new ordinance because our current ordinance only covers town roads. Dan asked what prompted the contract, speeding or the current round of break-ins. Andy explained that the Board received complaints about speeding, and the Sheriffs don’t have time to do more enforcement in Marshfield. The Board looked into other options and the VSP was the only alternative.

Suzan Condon asked whether domestic violence issues are included, because she has seen as many as 7 troopers responding to a complaint that is often resolved among the family. Andy explained that if a call comes in when the trooper is working a scheduled Marshfield shift, they will respond.

Rich Baker asked if the Board has looked into a speed cart, noting that education might be better than a violation. Chris Martin explained that we are part-owners of a cart with Calais and Plainfield but it hasn’t been used in years. He explained that kids would use the cart to see how fast they could go. He noted that the cart would be more effective if there was someone there to enforce the violations. He also noted that it requires someone to move it around and set it up. He explained that Calais wants to own the cart alone.

Faeterri Silver feels that seeing cops just instills fear but doesn’t change behavior. She noted that when the Planning Commission did a survey, one of the questions was what people like least about living in Marshfield, and some people cited speeding but she doesn’t think that seeing cops will change behavior.

John Morris asked if the police would be off-duty, and how many hours they would be here. Andy explained that they would be working overtime, usually in 2 or 3 hour blocks of time, for a total of 20 hours per month.

Wes Cate explained that there is technology available that would allow for taking a picture when someone is speeding, and perhaps the speed cart could be retro-fitted. Andy stated that the Board can look into that.

Lorilla Banbury told voters her car was hit while turning into a neighbor's driveway on Route 2. She was told by the police that the stretch of Route 2 between Twinfield and Marshfield Village is the most dangerous stretch of road in this part of the State. There have been 8 major accidents in the last year.

Kyle Cushman stated that in addition to speeders, she has been passed by a Catamount bus on Route 2 in a no-passing zone. She believes that there is a lot of drinking and driving on our back roads, judging by the number of beer cans along the roadsides.

Jamie Spector spoke in opposition to the article. She would rather give more money for education and prevention and supporting people. She would like to see the Selectboard investigate other options to reduce speeding. She would rather see us increase the appropriations to the social service agencies.

Sarah Hooker asked the Selectboard not to give up on the speed cart. She feels that some people are just not paying attention.

Lani Seifert feels that the article is well-intentioned but we can't make a good decision without more facts.

Mary Leahy stated that she lives alone in a fairly remote area, and she is comforted when she sees a trooper go by. She has heard about an increasing number of break-ins. She supports appropriations but for people who feel vulnerable, until there is a societal response to crime, the Vermont State Police presence is comforting. She wondered whether we could contract with them for peak crime times.

Suzan Condon asked whether we could allocate the money for an educational program at the school. The moderator stated that it would not be a valid amendment to the article.

David Warshow asked whether there is data available about how much difference 20 hours per month makes.

Lucy Blue noted that she lived in a town that had a reputation for being tough on enforcement, so no one speeded. In that town people also put up signs to remind drivers to slow down. She wondered what the chances are that a trooper driving around would actually see a crime happening.

Tom Maclay moved to call the question. Jules Rabin seconded. The motion was approved by more than 2/3 of the voters (by a show of hands).

The article was defeated, 41 in favor and 54 opposed, by a show of hands.

At 11:50 the meeting recessed for lunch. The meeting reopened at 12:40 after more announcements.

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$8,333 as its share of the cost of commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares.

Moved and seconded to accept the article as printed.

Hearing no objections, Moderator Caccavo invited Chris Loyer from Green Mountain Transit Agency to speak. He stated that ridership is down 15% all across the state. He attributed this to lower gas prices. The Route 2 commuter bus still meets the State's criteria to continue the route.

Brett Engstrom spoke in favor of the bus, noting that it costs only \$8.00 for 100 miles if you go to Burlington, even when gas prices go back up.

Allen Banbury noted that we need to preserve the infrastructure because even if we don't need it now, we will.

All in favor.

**Article 13.** To see if the voters will appropriate the sum of \$11,782 to be allocated as recommended by the Budget Committee:

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	\$ 500
Capstone Community Action	\$ 300
Central VT Council on Aging	\$ 1,400
Central Vermont Economic Development Corp	\$ 100
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice	\$ 3,200
Circle fka Battered Women's Services	\$ 250
Family Center of Washington County	\$ 250
Friends of the Winooski	\$ 300
Green Mountain Transit	\$ 882
Green Up Vermont	\$ 100
Onion River Food Shelf	\$ 1,100
Twin Valley Senior Center	\$ 1,600
Twinfield Learning Center	\$ 200
Twinfield Together Mentoring Program	\$ 250
VT Association of Conservation Districts	\$ 100
VT Assoc. for Blind & Visually Impaired	\$ 150
VT Center for Independent Living	\$ 100
Washington County Mental Health	\$ 800
Washington County Youth Services Bureau	\$ 200

Moved and seconded to accept the article as printed.

Suzan Condon stated that Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice is a fee-for-service organization, but they are asking for the lion's share of the appropriation. She noted that the Director's salary is quite substantial. She also noted that the other organizations don't ask for a fee for their services. She loves nurses and the care that they give but they are requesting far more than other agencies.

Tom Maclay respectfully disagreed. His wife needed care and they helped speed her recovery.

Suzan repeated that she doesn't dispute that their service is excellent but they charge insurance companies for their services. She moved to cut their request in half and give \$100 to each organization that is in the article for less than \$1000, and an extra \$25 to the four that are in for \$100. Darlene Furey seconded.

Tom Maclay explained that the smaller amounts may be what they asked for. He thinks the town should just cut the appropriation if voters want to, but shouldn't increase the appropriation to the others.

Dwight Baker stated that if your wife was dying of cancer and you had to take care of her alone, you would see how valuable this agency is. Peggy Bressee is appalled at the thought of cutting this agency because of the work they do.

Joanne Brooking noted that all of the agencies on this list help people. The mentoring program, for instance, does a lot and could do more with more money, but they don't bill people. She supports Suzan's amendment.

Darlene Furey values the services of Home Health & Hospice but they do bill, and other agencies are saving lives as well but can't bill for their services.

Rich Phillips feels that we should look into their financial situation further before we cut.

Beth Stern stated that as a director of a social service agency, she knows that all of these agencies are struggling. Federal funds are going down, and health care reform might be changing how they are funded. She trusts the Budget Committee; maybe the organizations are providing more info to the Budget Committee. They may be asking for money for free services that they provide.

Mary Leahy noted that not all of the appropriations are in the warning in the amount requested

Betsy Brigham is a member of the Budget Committee. She explained that they try to limit requests and the amount that the requests increase each year. Some requests are due to the Medicaid cost shift.

Dina Bookmyer-Baker noted that CVHH&H has free programs for caregivers.

Faeterri Silver stated that if an organization asks for a certain amount of money and we give them more, they would appreciate it.

The amendment was defeated by standing vote. The article was approved as originally warned.

- Article 14.**
- a. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes;
  - b. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds such as grants and gifts;
  - c. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide funds for the amounts previously voted;
  - d. To see if the Town will vote to have the Town taxes paid to the Treasurer on or before the close of business on Friday, August 12, 2016, with interest of one percent per month or fraction thereof to be paid by delinquent taxpayers;
  - e. To see if the Town will vote to have the School taxes paid to the Treasurer on or before the close of business on Friday, November 11, 2016, with interest of one percent per month or fraction thereof to be paid by delinquent taxpayers; and
  - f. To see if the Town will accept hand canceled, legible postmark on or before the due date as evidence of timely payment for town and school taxes.

Moved and seconded to accept this article as printed. Bobbi Brimblecombe moved to amend paragraph e. to have the school taxes due on November 18 instead of November 11 to avoid a conflict with Veterans' Day.

The amendment was approved. The article was approved as amended.

**Article 15.** To see if the voters will approve the following?

- Whereas, the earth's temperature continues to increase at an unprecedented rate, polar ice is melting at an increasing rate and we are experiencing unusual weather and extreme weather events at an increasing frequency; and
- Whereas, scientists nearly unanimously agree the increase in global temperature is the cause of the changing weather, the increase is primarily caused by carbon dioxide emissions from combustion of fossil fuels and unless these emissions are cut substantially we will leave to future generations a much less desirable place to live; and
- Whereas, Marshfield town government and its various committees have the ability to affect the reduction of fossil fuel use through decisions about town infrastructure and operations, through education and assistance to residents to reduce fossil fuel use and to implement climate sensitive requirements in land use regulations.
- Be it resolved, that all elements of Marshfield's government and committees should take all responsible and legal actions within their respective subject areas and in collaboration with others to reduce fossil fuel use by the town's operations and to assist residents to do the same.
- Be it further resolved, that the Select Board or its designee should provide a report on progress under this resolution in the 2016 town report.

Moved and seconded to accept this article as warned.

Rich Phillips explained that the article was generated by the Energy Committee and here by petition. He stated the following:

- An increase of 2°C is what scientists believe can be accommodated by the environment. The average temperature has already increased by 1°C. A total of 585 gigatons of carbon could be released into the atmosphere before the temperature increases by 2°C. Currently there are 2,785 gigatons of carbon in the gas and oil reserves that we already have in storage.
- Fifteen of the warmest 16 years on record have occurred since the year 2000.
- Global land temperature has increased.

Rich explained that fuel companies are still exploring new fuel supplies. Their lobbying is paying off – Congress doesn't act. The issue is too big for politicians. They ignore the scientific evidence that the world is in trouble. Forward progress is left to state and local governments. We can change our behavior and make some reductions in fossil fuel use in our towns. The article intends to help people and the town stay focused on the issue, and to help people reduce their carbon footprint. We can continue home visits and education. We can address energy efficiency in zoning regulations. We can make energy improvements to town buildings.

Jacob Gouge stated that the line that makes him nervous is "implement climate sensitive requirements in land use regulations" which sounds like "make it more expensive and difficult to build a house in Marshfield." He has installed solar panels, has no incandescent lights, and has an efficient heating system. He would rather see programs to help people voluntarily do the right thing without making it more difficult for his children to stay here.

Jay Moore stated that Rich is right – this is the most important issue we face right now.

Michele Gonzales stated that she has made weatherization improvements but doesn't like this article because it is vague and can be interpreted differently in the future. She appreciates what we have here but doesn't want to see it get too difficult to live here. It needs to be clearly stated.

Faeterri Silver doesn't think we as a town need to vote on this. The Town can choose to use the trucks appropriately – they don't need a piece of paper to tell them to do it. We don't need rules and regulations.

Dina Bookmyer-Baker explained that the article doesn't say that regulations will be implemented – they would still have to be approved by the Town.

As a member of the Energy Committee, Dan Chodorkoff sternly supports the resolution. The intent is not to increase regulations but to encourage the Town to cut down our carbon footprint. It is not empowering the Planning Commission to adopt regulations. We would have our say on any regulations that are proposed. He feels we have nothing to lose and nothing to fear from passing this resolution.

Lawrence Black, who just left the Energy Committee after several years, agrees with concerns over global warming, especially regarding transportation. He moved to amend the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of the article to change "requirements" to "recommendations" and to amend the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the article to delete "and legal". Wes Cate seconded.

Sue Morris asked whether the two amendments could be separated.

Andy Perchlik reasoned that since the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph begins with "whereas" it doesn't need to be amended because the Town already has the authority to do what it says. He would be OK with the change to the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph.

Rich Phillips explained that he is OK with taking out "and legal", noting that it was put there to avoid illegal actions. Regarding the zoning regulations, the Town does have the right to implement requirements. All this article is asking is for committees to think about how they can reduce fossil fuel use.

Dina Bookmyer-Baker stated that land use regulations are requirements. The Board already has this power. You are not adding anything by passing this.

Michael Sabourin offered a friendly amendment to the amendment, to delete "should take all responsible and legal actions within their respective subject areas and", to add "shall", and delete "to" (in two places). Suzan Condon seconded. The paragraph would then read as follows:

- Be it resolved, that all elements of Marshfield's government and committees shall in collaboration with others reduce fossil fuel use by the town's operations and assist residents to do the same.

Marilyn Davis noted that the difference between "should" and "shall" is pretty significant. "Should" gives committees some leeway.

Jack Hoffman agreed that "should" vs. "shall" is important. This amendment is telling them to reduce fossil fuel use with no alternatives.

Dan Chodorkoff stated that the intent is not to give mandates but to get committees to think about climate change.

Wes Cate feels that we are in danger of falling victim to vagueaphobia. The right thing to do is to go along with the second part of the first amendment. Regarding the amendment to the amendment, maybe we should drop it and try again.

Tim Morris stated that “shall” is very difficult. We have a Selectboard that is sensitive to the problem and we need to trust them to do the right thing.

Jopseph Gainza would appreciate the Town Selectboard being given the authority to exempt departments that use fuel to save lives, such as the Fire Department and Highway Department.

Mike Caccavo explained that Robert’s Rules limits speaking more than twice. He asked for a vote on allowing people to speak a third time. This was voted down by voice vote.

Lucy Blue prefers the word “should” and noted that’s what the drafters preferred, and the Board could still require it if they chose.

The amendment to the amendment was defeated.

Going back to the original amendment, Jack Hoffman moved to divide it into two parts. Lawrence withdrew the first part of his amendment. Jack withdrew his motion.

The amendment on the floor now is to delete “and legal” from the fourth paragraph. Mary Leahy feels there is safety in the word “legal”, because people have different interpretations of the word “responsible” so she would like the word “legal” to stay.

Brett Engstrom stated that the group is getting bogged down when the meaning is clear. The Town needs to put forth an example for the people. The Town has already made progress. This article encourages the board and committees to keep pushing forward. We need to urge the boards to keep setting a good example for the people and for other towns.

Joe Gainza stated that he originally suggested the word legal to the drafters but he understands the reservations. He stated that in Paris, 195 countries got together and made an agreement that we can’t go above 1.5°C because climate change is happening at a much faster rate than even scientists predicted. We have to take it seriously. We are worried about our neighbors imposing requirements but the Earth is going to impose requirements. Carbon scientists believe we have 10 years until we have reached the point where the climate gets out of control. We need to show the rest of Vermont that people are willing to do something.

Jacob Gouge stated that he doubts there is anyone opposed to the intention of the article. The concern is that the result might not be what is intended.

The amendment was approved by voice vote.

Alexandra Noyes stated that this is a sane article and asked if we don’t pass this, who will?

All in favor.

**Article 16.** To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Jay Moore asked the Selectboard to explain the issues that he has heard about regarding the Stranahan Town Forest. Andy Perchlik explained that there is a draft amendment to the management plan that has been posted on the website. The Selectboard is talking about restructuring the Stewardship Committee

and perhaps increasing the number of members, and having members represent the entire Town and not just their interest group. There will be a public hearing at the next Selectboard meeting. Joanne Brooking asked what happens to the money that the Town receives from sugaring and logging, and who decides. Andy explained that the management plan covers many different uses of the forest. The sugaring and logging money is split between the general fund and the town forest fund.

Dan Chodorkoff stated that he has been happy with the management. When the land was purchased, it was with the intent to have many uses. Everyone knows you need to have some logging for forest health, but it seems there has been a shift in the emphasis from forest health to maximizing income. He stated that his donation was not made based on that philosophy, and he wondered if the philosophy changed if his donation would be refunded.

Chris Martin explained that the Board has always thought there should be responsible forestry. No one has ever suggested that we need to maximize income. No one has suggested clearcutting. The only harvest that has been done was selective thinning in the sugarwoods, once. Chris said his understanding was that the donations were made to the Vermont Land Trust, to purchase conservation easements.

Bob Popp clarified that 50% of the income from the property goes into the Stranahan Town Forest fund until the fund reaches \$5,000. The rest of the income goes into the general fund and is used to lower taxes.

Peggy Bresee asked if the Board is going to base their decision on what people say at the public hearing. Andy replied yes.

Suzan Condon feels like the tops of the trees could be used to supplement the wood piles for low income people in town. She wants to know what happens to the surveys people fill out, and who makes the decisions because she has suggested this before. Andy agreed that it is a good idea.

Albert Whitcomb suggested that to reduce global warming, we should all leave our cars at home next year and walk to Town Meeting.

David Warshow and Wes Cate volunteered to set up a projector for use at next year's meeting.

Tessa Brimblecombe was thanked for bringing the microphone to those people wishing to speak.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

**Article 17.** To see if the voters will adopt the proposed zoning bylaw amendment dated October 5, 2015 and approved by the Town of Marshfield Selectboard on January 5, 2016 (**voted by Australian ballot**)

Yes	240
No	167
Spoiled	0
Blank	<u>61</u>
Total	468

Marshfield, Vermont, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on March 1, 2016.

Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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