

**EAST MONTPELIER
Town Meeting
March 1, 2016
minutes**

The legal voters of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont were warned to meet at the East Montpelier Elementary School located at 665 Vincent Flats Rd in East Montpelier on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 9:30 AM to transact the following business and to vote by Australian Ballot from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on those Articles so noted. Approximately 290 residents were in attendance.

Moderator Duane called the Town and School Meeting of 2016 to order at 9:35 AM. He introduced himself as the duly elected Town and School Moderator and welcomed all those present. He briefly addressed the emergency exits, voter registration and voter cards.

Moderator Duane explained that he will conduct this Town Meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order. Vermont State Law does allow Articles that are on the ballot to be discussed with the exception of Town Officers, but no changes can be made on ballot items.

He explained the tradition in East Montpelier was to alternate the Town and the School each year. This year the Town will go first. The Schools portion of Town's meeting will be recessed until after the Town's portion of the meeting.

Moderator Duane read the town warning as follows:

The legal voters of the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the East Montpelier Elementary School in East Montpelier on Tuesday, the first (1st) day of March, 2016 at 9:30 AM to act on the following:

The polls for articles to be voted on by Australian ballot will open at 7 AM and close at 7 PM (17VSA § 2561)

He then proceeded with the warned Articles.

ARTICLE 1: To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year. (To be voted by Australian Ballot)

**Town Moderator, 1-year term
Selectboard Member, 3-year term
Selectboard Member, 2-year term
Lister, 3-year term
Auditor, 3-year term
First Constable, 1-year term
Second Constable, 1-year term
Cemetery Commissioner, 5-year term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 3-term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, 3-year term
Planning Commissioner, 1-year term**

Moderator Duane read Article. As this Article is for elected officers to be voted by Australian Ballot, no discussion was allowed.

ARTICLE 2: To hear the reported of several Town Officers and to act thereon

Selectboard Chair Seth Gardner began with the review of Selectboard's report on page 11 of the Town report. He touched on the topics in the report beginning with a briefing on the status the Village park-

and-ride. The WEC on Route 14 parking lot was acquired by the State, and given to the Town at no cost. The sidewalk project will be a real plus for the Town especially with the increased pedestrian activity.

The Route 14 Bridge replacement project is completely in the hands of the State. There is some scheduled preparation work for this fall and summer of 2017. There is an expected completion date in 2018.

He gave a summary on the road conditions in that the matter of speed on the town roads were being addressed. He first praised the diligence of our road crew on the maintenance of the roads. However he believes in a 'rough road policy' in that the rougher roads with bumps tend to slow folks down, thus resulting in less accident situations.

Charles Johnson commented on Towne Hill Rd previously being a dirt road, and since it was paved- there has been a noticeable increase in speeding drivers.

Chair Gardner continued on to the Recreation Board summarized in the town report will be addressed later as a warned Article. In summary, the Selectboard supports the Article for a number of reasons. The various sports and events that the Recreation Board manages or sponsors and the co-mingling of various towns and team participants would make this move easier for them. Also, each year the auditors refer to the matter of the separate funds account.

He summarized the Conservation Fund matter, which is a warned Article, but briefly explained the importance of conserving land in our town. It is a controversial topic. It would be a good idea to get money in the fund. Conservation of land in town will be discussed at the time of the Article.

The last item he touched on was the budget and the matter that the Selectboard tries to maintain the budget to keep the tax rate steady. The figures show a 6% increase, but due to the general fund balance being used-they were able to keep overall increase of only 3%.

Moderator Duane asked for any questions.

Ginny Callan inquired about the newly acquired town property, wanting to know the cost and why no town vote.

Gardner responded the parcel was tax sale and in foreclosure. The Selectboard kept the town's best interest in mind. The parcel is next to park & ride and there is plenty of space and the opportunity for future town buildings. Plus, the owner really wanted to sell to the town. The Selectboard did consider the Town vote option. They set a limit of \$300,000 based on appraisals and the town assessment 330,000. An independent appraisal came up with \$430,000. The final price paid was \$240,000. The Capital Reserve fund had money in it and these funds are ear-marked for special projects of which this qualifies. Developers were in attendance and participated in the bidding. Once they saw that the town was interested, they backed off. In the end, it worked out very well for the town.

Moderator inquired for any further questions. With none, he asked for and received a motion with a second to vote. All voted in favor, he declared Article 2 adopted and moved on to the next Article.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$1,667,039 as proposed by the Selectboard, for laying out and repairing highways and for other necessary Town expenses for fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017). (To be voted by Australian Ballot)

Moderator Duane read Article and explained that this Article was to be voted on by Australian Ballot and already discussed on the floor. State law does allow discussion but no changes can be made. As there were none, he called to move onto the next Article.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$38,614 for Kellogg-Hubbard Library for the support of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. (To be voted by Australian Ballot)

Moderator Duane read Article and explained that this Article was to be voted on by Australian ballot but could be briefly discussed on the floor, however no changes could be made.

Doris Washburn spoke in that she had the need for a book of which she found at the Aldrich Library. She had to pay \$20.00 for this book as she was not a Barre citizen. She inquired as to why are we supporting the Kellogg-Hubbard Library for that amount of money and not the Aldrich Library as well.

Rachel Grossman responded in that the Kellogg-Hubbard provides services for surrounding towns. Aldrich services Barre city residents and never asked for funds from our town. There is an outreach program at Kellogg-Hubbard that provides many services to home-bound individuals.

Ellen Leonard from *All Together Now* daycare and preschool commented that the Kellogg-Hubbard outreach program comes to her place once a week with books and materials no charge.

With no further comments, Moderator called to move onto the next Article.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town authorize all property taxes for the fiscal year 2017 to be paid to the Treasurer, without discount in two installments and received by the Town Treasurer at the East Montpelier Municipal Building as follows: the first installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM Tuesday, November 15, 2016 and the second installment will be due on or before 5:00 PM Monday, May 15, 2017

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received. No discussion or questions were presented. Moderator asked for and received motion with a second to vote; all voted in favor, and Moderator declared Article 5 adopted.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town disband the Recreation Board with the board's responsibilities transferred to an independent non-profit organization

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received and he opened the floor for discussion.

Phillip Heinz and Kathy Richardson referred to Seth's earlier briefing. Mr. Heinz continued on the growing of the Recreation Board as an entity since its creation. Over the years, many events and programs have been sponsored, more recently and especially the adoption of youth programs through the school. They are looking into adult programs. It was noted of the creation of the cross country loop on the soccer field. A cross-country skiing is a project in the works. He referred to a survey out front to get more input on other programs suggestions. This movement really gives us the opportunity and flexibility to really broaden our horizons as well as provide the opportunity to kids from other towns to participate in programs not otherwise offered to them.

Mr. Moore questioned the over sights of the money that goes in and out, so that we don't have some of the issues that have come up recently in other towns and volunteer organizations that have recently been in the news.

Ms. Richardson spoke in that she has been on the Board since 2009. She is a CPA in town and fully aware of the importance and value of keeping track of finances in a responsible way and make sure that they are open to all. There is a very small amount of cash that we operate on now with the \$3,000 received from the Town and some programming fees. There is really isn't much of a risk for theft, but we keep a really close track of the funds to be sure of it. Right now because they are part of the town budget, they do provide a complete list of transactions for the treasurer and auditors. There is access for

everything that goes through their account.

A question was raised about an independent audit. Ms. Richardson responded in that there will be no need for an audit, as their funds balance will be under \$25,000. Plan is to report activity on website. An audit not feasible for that kind of money.

Mr. Heinz further commented that they have welcomed any one of the Selectboard members to become a liaison member on the nonprofit set up so that there is that connection to assure that they be involved and updated. The previously mentioned website is already set up.

Robert Morey inquired to the impact of having a Non-Profit run the Rec field in reference to the Town's Liability and would they also get insurance that would affect their expenses.

Ms. Richards responded that the plan is to have the Town cover the liability as they own the property. Their plan is to provide insurance for sports related functions. They have looked into the cost. Fees can be acquired on per participant basis and/or adjust the fees per program to cover the cost or do more fundraising with a zero impact to the Town.

Edward Deegan commented that he had serious reservations on this Article and felt the need to apply the theory of keeping things simple, and did not feel it would. However, after a chat with Kathy and Phil, his opinion changed. He served on the rec board for 10 years and has seen the programs increase. He now feels they have really done their homework and understands where things are heading. He felt that was well thought out and planned on the matters of audit for this kind of money. He complimented on a great job and great Board. This is the way to go.

Ellen Knodler reiterated what Mr. Deegan had said referring to their conscientiousness and hard work.

Renee Carpenter spoke on this being a great idea, but had a question regarding the advantage of being a non-profit versus remaining under the Town and also the implications for other projects as well as to governing oversight not to mention for filing costs for being a 501C-3 Non-Profit.

Mr. Heinz responded that fundraising itself certainly cannot be done under the Town. Being Non-Profit would provide the flexibility for fundraising and grants to hold events in other towns as well. There has been serious discussion for District wide programs. In the example of the Lacrosse programs in the works, there are not enough kids in East Montpelier. This move would allow the opportunity for more participants from other towns. We are seeing the needs of communities around us struggling to maintain sports programs. Being a Non-Profit makes us eligible for grants and funds that are otherwise not allowed being a Town entity.

A question arose on the guidelines being followed. Mr. Heinz responded that the guidelines set are already followed. He referred to the example of the change in soccer mouth guard for players. This was changed accordingly.

Sarah Waring inquired about the changes for fundraising and questioned the changing of the by-laws. Ms. Richardson explained that fundraising would be allowed, as the money that is received are considered Town funds, and are differently handled and impossible to qualify.

Mr. Heinz added that being Non-Profit opens up the fundraising and solicitation of grants. This would allow the building up of cash reserve. There would be great flexibility and independence to make decisions that would avoid the matter of running to the Selectboard for everything.

Bob Morey asked about this being a Voted Article each year or part of the Selectboard budget. Chair Gardner responded that the amounts could change. Vice-Chair Northrup further explained that this could be set up as a Voted Article much like the Four Corners School and the Cemetery. The other aspect is that the Auditors have been pressuring us to do something about all the money to the

Treasurer and maintaining small amounts of entries.

Mr. Heinz reminded that there are two different pocketbooks involved here. One being the allocation from the Town to maintain the property. The other being the funds that are taken in for fees to run programs. Money management this way would create less burden on the Town Treasurer for a \$25 check.

Catherine Clark raised the matter of the Rec Board being run by a Board of Directors and the process. Mr. Heinz responded that the current process of the Board is when there is an opening (of which there are 2 now) a letter of intent is received. The name and letter of recommendation is then sent to the Selectboard for appointment consideration. Currently, the Board consists of 5-9 members and this will switch to a 5-7 member board.

Ed Deegan commented that it should be kept simple, it should not be a problem be it voted as an Article or treated as a vendor as a Selectboard budget item.

Moderator inquired for more questions or comments. With no discussion or questions were presented, Moderator asked for and received motion with a second to vote. Most voted in favor, and Moderator declared Article 6 adopted.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$10,000 for the Land Conservation Fund

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received.

Selectboard Chair Gardner began with his love of conservation and he takes advantage of it as much as he can-especially as a farmer. He wanted to discuss this issue at town meeting and provide an insight of the really big picture. We have the ability to sort a lot of land in Town. We probably should revisit the whole thing, raise questions, and target the areas that we would like to conserve as well as look at areas where we could promote development in a non-invasive way for affordable housing and the such. It would be nice to look at the whole picture and thinks that the State is also having a Conversation recap. If we can solve that here, maybe we can be a model for the rest of the State and will be running the State the way we like to see it. That's the challenge as we move forward slightly and come up with a different plan and we will be a little bit different in the factors of 30 years ago. He feel it's a really big picture questions for the State of Vermont, but it also relevant East Montpelier and he wants the word conservation to have a positive connotation. He thanked everyone for having this great conversation.

Lindy Biggs took the microphone and added one little bit about working with the VNRC Transportation report and when we think about the future everywhere else, we have to think about how there's not going to be Transportation as we know it. The transportation experts say we have to move toward the Conservation of land and that will have an impact on residential development so that means really focusing on that. She lives in the White Pine cohousing Community which was one of the early cluster developments for this modern period and they needed a lot of special permissions from the town. So once again that we need to encourage that kind of development instead of making it have a negative impact. She wants the best relationship for all involved.

Charles Johnson spoke in that he has been on this council for nearly thirty years. Remembering Act 200 from which this fund was created-it was a very controversial item at that time. About 600 residents attended the special town meeting held to debate this fund. It also grew out of our town wide plan in what we wanted our Town to look like in thirty years. He referred to the thirty years now passed and our Town looks pretty good in part due to the Conservation Fund that was established. Some of the funds were from donations and sales. He referred to the report on page 40-41 noting the invested \$160,000 pledged to protect farm and forest and wetlands. Been very effective tool for conversation. 2500 acres protected. Information sheets available that show clear goals for the fund which includes the application and an info sheet. The Selectboard asked for clear goals for the fund committee. As noted in the referred information sheet, there are 5 goals listed. Of the 5 goals listed, perhaps the most attention should be last one on the role that Conservations plays. We need to ensure that the Conserved lands

and their values compliment-not conflict-with future development patterns in conjunction with the Planning Commission and the Selectboard.

Moderator inquired questions or comments.

Mr. Morey asked how many requests pending. Mr. Johnson responded in that there were none, and the last one was the Ormsbee property. Nona Estrin added that was a donation.

A question was asked how they derived at the \$10,000 figure. Mr. Johnson responded that the fund's current balance was down to \$5,000 and they felt that was low in the event that something arose. The fund did have a balance of \$40,000, and they wanted that to get back to that amount. With these tough economic times, they felt this was a good amount to begin with.

Chair Gardner remarked the last amount of \$10,000 to \$15,000 or so that was taken out of the account was just for the paperwork involved.

Nona Estrin explained in perpetuity which is the ability to go out and check the land to make sure the guidelines are being met.

Ellen Knodler referred to her recent trip to Colorado and the impression of a beautiful land, but in reality, it has a lot of urban sprawl and crazy traffic. She noted that even Burlington is crazy. She noted the matter of cluster housing that was touched on before. She appreciates our country setting haven.

Rubin Bennett spoke in reference to Saturday's forum and how this conversation turned into an incredibly thoughtful and fairly drawn out- but incredible exchange of conversation on what Conservation meant to this Town. Resource development means a couple of really important factors for us as a Town to be considering since there is an extreme shortage of affordable housing in East Montpelier. He feels that we are slowly becoming a community of haves and have nots and that has ramifications across the board. He feels that we're slowly but surely squeezing the haves and have-nots and that the planning is something that he thinks as a town and from the many comments on Saturday was that we really need to develop and reexamine our town plan to make sure that things like zoning and cluster developments are considered. We know perhaps the most important property of all referring to the Winston-Silberberg property and the opportunities for that land. We sort of have this global scope of things in mind and we as a Town need to have conversations reiterating that. He referred to the comment made the town plan was developed about 30 years ago and it said you know what we want these months later look like in 30 years. He agreed with Charles who that says 30 years have gone by we're almost there so it's probably time to have that conversation again what do we want these months later to look like in 30 years both from you know an aging population that younger population of place for most retired place for folks to land and have kids and families and do all of that. He is very much in favor of the \$10,000 and loves it as a pivot point for a larger conversation.

Jean Vissering spoke as Chair of the Planning Commission and just wanted to say this is exactly the Questions and concerns that they have been discussing for some time and with some concentration in the village and they just received a grant for planning in the village. In the past year, there has been a real concern for affordable housing for young people and families. The planning Commission will be revising the Town Plan over the next five years. East Montpelier is a wonderful town.

Marty Miller commented that we are using conservation in the narrow sense. To him it means control. When you take land, its use shouldn't be limited as in the past. There should be a broader spectrum so it can be used for good public use. We do not want to end up like Montpelier in that they cannot even put a trail through their town. People should look more broadly at the use of the land without threatening the integrity of the donor's intention.

Charles Johnson remarked that the state has long had Housing and Conservation Trust Fund and maybe it's time for East Montpelier to expand our Land Conservation and Housing Conservation fund.

Right now, there are only three of us left on the committee and we need to switch it back to broaden our base and get some people with some housing expertise in on this so we can have a much broader discussion.

Nona Estrin added that there is a relationship between conservation and housing; and one of the big things that comes up for her is that our Town has done an amazing thing with Conservation. It took a lot of pieces and working together, and it was done thoughtfully and incredibly successfully. The period of easy Conservation in this state is over and if we as a community can do for housing and people getting their first home to move in and make a life here we are will be a model community.

Moderator inquired for further questions. Receiving none, he asked for a vote. All voted in favor and Moderator declared Article 7 enacted.

Moderator Duane offered the floor to State Representative Tony Klein for a bit.

Mr. Klein took the floor beginning with a thank you to Colin McCaffrey for the microphone and the appreciation for this talented musician living right here in our Town. He continued with an address to the folks of East Montpelier and expressed his honor and privilege to serve as our State Representative over the last 14 years. He offered a quick briefing on the doings at the Legislature especially with regards to the Marijuana bill, the Carbon Tax and the Forestry bills. He also wanted to let us know to contact him regarding any issues with Vermont Health Care Connect. He then welcomed questions or comments.

Ilene Levit inquired about the prognosis of the Paid Sick Leave bill, of which Mr. Klein proudly responded that this bill was passed and enacted as law.

Charles Johnson asked for an update on the bill for Towns siding on the Energy bill. Mr. Klein explained that this was not a specific bill, but bill S-230 was addressing the issues in as far as statewide set-up and a more defined screening process in the matter of the power in the future.

Andy Shapiro wanted to know how soon the RECs (renewable energy certs) of renewable energy would be addressed, especially with many of the RECs going out of state. Mr. Klein explained that the PBS (Public Service Board) was soon going to issue meter rules and define the portfolios.

Renee Carpenter commented on the appreciation of the many conversations of today on housing and land conservation and Tony Klein's acknowledgement of certain state topics. However, she wanted to address the budget matters in the State and how it affects all Vermonters. She has some matters that have not helped her out with particular needs. Ms. Carpenter then referred to the Vermont Climate Change Economy summit of a week ago and many participants talked about how to plan in a post carbon future.

Selectboard Carl Etnier inquired as to what have the townspeople have told you about Marijuana and Carbon Tax. Mr. Klein responded in reference to the Marijuana bill was presented and passed by the Senate. It is currently waiting on the Governor. Most likely it not going to happen. Mr. Klein personally feels that under certain conditions as agreeing with House Speaker Shap Smith as stated...if we are going to do it-do it right. It is not an issue to be rushed into. The town's people are not ready for this. IN reference to the Carbon Tax, he had received a lot of feedback from East Montpelier residents and we are strong in recognizing the climate changes, and burning fossil fuel it not in our best interest. He is annoyed that the media overstated the increase of .88 for a gallon of gas. This may not happen for a while, but it certain got everyone's attention. His Committee will continue to be active on this matter.

Flor Diaz-Smith first thanked him for all his efforts especially on the Carbon Tax issue. She wanted to know his thoughts regarding the crisis around the world and the matter of Syrian Refugees coming to Vermont and the impact on housing and education. Mr. Klein said that the people of Vermont had made it loud and clear about NOT closing our borders....that's what America is all about. All lives matter!

A question was asked about school funding and the constant increase in taxes. Mr. Klein responded in that his experience of being a school member for many years, he appreciates the efforts put into the school budgets by the boards and acknowledges the increased taxes that are getting out of hand and declining population. He's been loud and clear at the Legislation on how to pay for school spending. He referred to Act 46-the education funding bill and the matter of leveling the rates if schools spent less money. Our district for example consists of seven boards-1 high school, 5 elementary schools and a supervisory union. The consolidation of the school boards to vote on all school budgets would result in an immediate leveling of taxes over the next five years. The best part of Act 46 in the fact that it got more people involved in conversation than the previous education bill-Act 60.

Rachel Grossman wanted to know how the consolidation of schools boards save money. Mr. Klein explained that the state has created an incentive to consolidate efficiencies to save state wide. There are higher school taxes in the southern part of the state. Our own school faced the problem of budgeting finances to keep the tax rate down and it almost cost us a teacher. If there was district unification, this would not have been an issue. The supervisory union has a large budget that we do not get to vote on.

Ed Deegan added that consolidation is practical but again, where is the money coming from.

Renee Carpenter asked Mr. Klein how much the increased cost of Health Care contributes to the health benefits that teachers and staff receive. Mr. Klein responded that the health care benefits is a major factor, but these costs are in the contracts that we note on.

With no other questions or comments for State Representative Klein, Moderator Duane moved on to the next Article.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$4,200 for the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association for operating expenses during fiscal year 2016

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received. No discussion or questions were presented. Moderator asked for and received motion with a second to vote.

All voted in favor, and Moderator declared Article 8 adopted.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$7,000 for the East Montpelier Cemetery Commission for the support and maintenance of Town cemeteries during fiscal year 2017

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received.

Elliott Morse spoke in support of the cemeteries, especially as the Sexton. He commented that this money runs the operations of maintaining the cemeteries. There are funds in CDs but they can only use the interest. He again thanked Allan Ploof for his services and years as a Cemetery Commissioner. He will be missed.

With no further discussion or questions, Moderator called for a vote. All voted in favor, and Moderator declared Article 9 adopted.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$8,200 for the East Montpelier Signpost to provide for the production and mailing of six issues of the East Montpelier Signpost for each East Montpelier resident household and non-resident property owner during fiscal year 2017

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received. No discussion or questions were presented. Moderator asked for and received motion with a second

to vote. All voted in favor, and Moderator declared the enactment of Article 10.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$4,000 for East Montpelier Trails, Inc. for the enhancement, development, and maintenance of trail network in East Montpelier during fiscal year 2017

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received. With no discussion or questions, Moderator asked for and received motion with a second to vote. All voted in favor, and Moderator declared Article 11 adopted.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$5,000 for the Montpelier Senior Activity Center for operating expenses during fiscal year 2017

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received.

Kate Wirth wondered why we're donating money to the Montpelier Senior Center and not the Senior Center that covers our town. Edie Miller believes we do contribute to both. She is a frequenter of the downtown Senior Center-the one we're voting on-and thinks these two senior centers provide different programs and service for different populations that have different emphasis. She feels there's been a breach between them and they should to try to work together and make sure they have kind of an integrated program of offerings for many senior citizens. But to answer your question we do contribute to both.

Ann Stanton added as a member of the funding committee and referred to page 10 in the Town Report to see that we contributed \$1,500 to the Twin Valley Senior Center. That is part of the funding request study committee and we doubled our contribution this year compared to last year. This amount is based on the number of participants from East Montpelier and it was that same committee that decided to put the \$5,000 amount for the Montpelier Senior activity center into the regular articles because of the amount and wanting to make sure that the people had a direct vote.

Seth Gardner commented on how many East Montpelier residents attend both senior centers.

Andy Christensen inquired about the representative for the Montpelier Center. Janet Clare spoke that she was the director of the Montpelier Senior Center and they are recruiting now and would love and representatives from East Montpelier.

A question came up about Scott has being a member and Miss Claire indicated that he was on that he as a finance director and she referred to the number of East Montpelier residents which and that has been over 60 there are 30 participating in over 30 hours of programming. She notes the population from East Montpelier has been growing steadily and they support many programs regarding seniors in the area.

A question was asked about how many residents partake at Twin Valley Senior Center. Ms. Stanton answered that it was below 10 per the number given by the directors on the application.

Ginny Callan spoke in support of the exercise classes and Bone building classes that are offered. Refer to page 60 in the town report.

Someone spoke in reference to Article 6 and the integration of senior centers with the Rec Department addressing multi-generational planning in Montpelier in the coming couple years and that the senior activity center is actually being integrated with the recreation department. This process is just starting but there's actually an RFP going out to consider the sale of our recreation building and they are about to embark on a strategic planning process to sort of revision how we're doing senior program and use the program and all programming a multi-generational programming the facilities that we have. The facilities that we might need to build. They are really looking at this as an opportunity for the whole

Central Vermont region and given the changes in your vision of recreation in East Montpelier wanted to want to invite everyone keep their eyes out for those conversations were going to be holding and in the hope of many of us that we can look toward more partnering among our communities.

With no questions or discussion regarding article 12, Moderator Duane called for a vote. Most voted in favor, and Moderator declared an active Article 12.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$5,500 for the Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice for operating expenses during fiscal year 2017

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received. No questions or discussion were presented, so Moderator Duane called for a vote. All voted on favor, and Moderator Duane declared the town had enacted Article 13.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town raise the sum of \$8,333 as its fiscal year 2017 share of the annual ongoing cost of providing the Green Mountain Transit Agency 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

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received. Questions and/or comments welcomed. With no discussion or questions, Moderator asked for and received a motion with a second to vote. Most voted in favor, and Moderator declared an active Article 14.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise the amounts listed below as recommended by the Town's Funding Request Study Committee, or what other amounts, for the following organizations for fiscal year 2017

1)	American Red Cross	\$ 250
2)	Capstone Community Action	\$ 500
3)	Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	\$ 750
4)	Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$1,875
5)	Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center	\$1,000
6)	Circle	\$ 675
7)	Downstreet Housing & Community Development	\$ 150
8)	East Montpelier Community Connections	\$2,500
9)	Family Center of Washington County	\$ 500
10)	Friends of the Winooski River	\$ 200
11)	Girls/Boyz First Mentoring	\$ 300
12)	Good Beginnings of Central VT	\$ 300
13)	Good Samaritan Haven	\$ 750
14)	Green Mountain Transit	\$1,366
15)	Green Up Vermont	\$ 150
16)	Home Share Now	\$ 800
17)	North Branch Nature Center	\$ 750
18)	Onion River Food Shelf	\$1,000
19)	OUR House of Central VT	\$ 250
20)	People's Health and Wellness Clinic	\$1,250
21)	Prevent Child Abuse Vermont	\$ 300
22)	Project Independence	\$ 250

23	) Sexual Assault Crisis Team	\$ 250
24	) Twin Valley Senior Center	\$1,500
25	) Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$ 150
26	) Vermont CARES	\$ 150
27	) Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 245
28	) Washington County Diversion Program	\$ 450
29	) Washington County Mental Health Services	\$ 800
27	) Washington County Youth Service Bureau	\$ 400
TOTAL		\$19,811

Moderator Duane read Article and inquired for motion to discuss. Motion and second received. He referred to page 10 of the Town Report that listed the 30 items. He inquired about questions or discussions regarding Article 15 on the funding committee report.

Bob Morey stated we just voted \$8,300 for Green Mountain Transit on Article 14 and we has wondering why we're paying twice. Is there an answer to that question?

Lynn Blackwell responded on behalf of the funding committee in that the article that we just voted on provides the commuter bus route service. The line item on this Article for the same agency it is for the service that provides a volunteer driver service for transportation for people who are unable to, shut-ins or of low-income people and without transportation that they have access to doctors' appointments and other essential services. This was developed historically differently from us and so that's why they're separate.

Anne Campbell wanted to understand what is Circle and what is Downstreet Housing and Community Development were. Lynn Blackwell responded that Circle is the organization that provides services for people who have experienced domestic violence. It used to be called Battered Women Shelters that operates in Barre. We have provided support for them forever since I've been on the committee and this is a new name. Downstreet Housing and Community Development was previously The Central Vermont Community Land Trust. They provide housing help to low-income people who are in need. Some of the people served from East Montpelier received assistance for getting a mortgage loans and finding the kind of housing that fit their needs. We have given them funds for a number of years now. Ms. Blackwell referred to page 57 report and know the new organizations that we received applications from this year and who came to our meeting and presented information that we felt we were very worthy of support. She also noted the Good Samaritan Haven in Barre and the Washington County Mental Health.

Phillip Heinz supported this Article and the ability to help those in need.

With no further discussion or questions, Moderator asked for and received motion with a second to vote. All voted in favor, and Moderator declared an active Article 15.

Moderator Duane received notification that LUNCH was ready, and ORDERED recess for lunch.

Town Meeting recessed at 12:25 pm. Town Meeting resumed at 1:25 pm.

Moderator Duane took a moment to acknowledge and thank the lunch crew followed by a nice applause from the attending audience.

Moderator Duane then requested a moment of silence and respect for community members that have passed away. He then asked for a moment of respect to acknowledge for the members of our community deployed in the military service, those deployed and at home-past and present. He proposed a moment of silence just to reflect on their souls and on their service.

Moderator Duane declared to move on to Article 16 in the coming before the town for the annual meeting.

ARTICLE 16: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting

Rick Barstow wanted to let folks know that if anybody is interested in learning more about the carbon pollution tax, there are community meetings being organized around town, so look for those dates and times if you want to learn more about why it's terrible.

Phillip Heinz spoke on the developing process at the Rec Field of cleaning up and developing the space between the property and putting in conservative-minded family friendly parks space. Anyone interested in being part of that discussion or giving input for this project is welcome. They would love to have more people take a look at what they are doing. Even to help put in the cables and what not. This is just the beginning all the things that are hazardous to the kids that are playing in the area and make it a ground hornets and we want to create a visual unified space between the new playground here and the efforts were trying to do over there and make it a place for families to come and enjoy the land, have a picnic or just enjoy a nice day.

David Coburn announced the Historical Society publications of *Across the Onion* for sale in the corridor. He highly recommends for learning the town history. A gracious thank you to Lynn Blackwell and Ellen Hill for this book. Particularly if you're new in town, it will give you some background as to the place where you came from or came to and what has happened since 1791. At the Tunbridge Fair in June, the Historical Society is sponsoring a history Expo. The Towns of East Montpelier and Calais got together with a photo booth there. Calais is going to feature the Robertson Sawmill which is one of the oldest still operating water-powered sawmills in the country. Among the several things featured, one of which is the mill that used to make wool cloth. It provided a great deal of employment. He encouraged anyone to come to their meetings of which the next one being on the third Monday in March. And finally one thing about history on this bridge - my great-great-great-grandfather paid to have it built.

Renee Carpenter wanted to be brief in that she is still covering Coburn Pond. The snow is actually beginning to melt and there's not been much organizational activities since it was preserved as a swimming hole and a place to fish. But those of us that worked on that project are very aware that the time that the agency of Transportation had to do with the constructed wetlands and the feeling on the North End of the property is about us and I was reminded by a retired civil engineer that when the time is up in the project is completed the Agency of Transportation is likely to want to sell it. So she was just putting in the bug to everybody here that it continues to be very highly used resource in the winter. In addition to all the wildlife, there a lot of dogs and a lot of humans and lot of birds that have been enjoying the pond. She is not sure about the public access and what is going to happen next. She would encourage us all to think about how-when it goes up for sale-it remains open to public access. Just because we we're able to preserve the pond as a recreation area does not mean that an individual could not again purchase it in the future and then post it again which I think is something we would all like to avoid happening. The River Conservancy looked at it and they would be very interested for example, if the Selectboard at one point wanted to discuss the possibility of holding title to the property, the River Conservancy would be very interested in working with the town in a similar way that they can generate or create the parking lot for river access on Coburn road.

Elliot Moore spoke on how he refers to *Across The Onion* as his historic bible for the Town. This book has all the happenings for our town. Anyone that doesn't have one of these books had better get one, because he guarantees the first time you open the book, you're going to be stuck for the whole day.

A first grade teacher just wanted to let folks know about a silent auction is going on outside. All the money raised goes to support the outdoor education program. It's an amazing program that gets kids reconnected with nature that takes the kids and the teachers and we have partnered with North Branch Nature Center so we have Eagle program. This Saturday at Morse farm is the pancake breakfast from

8:00 am to 10:00 am, so they're really thankful for Morse farm for starting this up. It is a non-profit and they have different ones every Saturday. The price \$8 per ticket. Contact her with any questions.

Paul Cate joked about not standing up in the front, but he thinks it was his great-great great-grandfather that was having an argument with David's great-great-great-grandfather. Whether the bridge should go where this is or where they came from which was the next farm up. He guessed he won so he gets to stand in front of all and say.

Lora Stridesburg commented on as a new resident and being a new member of the community, she hears people talk about the community's aging population and wanting to draw new people into the community. She was really curious as to what people thought so far as how to do that and what people think would be good things to have in our community to draw younger people and people from other communities. One of the reasons that we chose East Montpelier was because of a great school and the love of the location as far as it being close to a lot of things.

With no further discussion or questions, Moderator asked for and received motion with a second to vote. All voted in favor, and Moderator declared Article 16 passed.

Moderator Duane read Article 17, and this is being voted Australian ballot, there is no discussion allowed.

Moderator Duane asked for and received a motion and many seconds received to adjourn. All voted in favor and Moderator declared Town Meeting 2016 adjourned at 02:30 PM.

Respectfully noted and recorded by Teresa E. Conti-Town Clerk

Town Meeting minutes of March 1, 2016 approved by:

East Montpelier Selectboard Board Members

Seth Gardner

Casey Northrup

Gene Troia

Carl Etnier

Kimberly Swasey

East Montpelier Town Moderator

Michael O Duane

East Montpelier Town Clerk

Teresa E Conti

Received for Recording:

East Montpelier Town Clerk's Office this ____ day of _____, 20__ AD at ____: ____ AM

Attest: Teresa E. Conti-Town Clerk