

TOWN OF NORTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019

The Annual Town Meeting was recessed for 15 minutes and was then called to order at 7:15pm by Town Moderator William A. Gouveia. at the Norton High School Auditorium.

Moderator Gouveia reviewed some pre-meeting rules:

1. I ask everyone to please find a seat for this meeting. Standing in the back and on the sides creates problems both on a noise level and in counting standing votes. There are plenty of seats, please find one.
2. If you are not a registered voter in the Town of Norton, you are welcome to visit but must sit in the section of seats marked in the rear to my right. If you are a registered voter, please sit anywhere else, because your vote will not be counted if you are sitting in the non-voting section.
3. If you wish to address this meeting, you must do so only after being recognized by the Moderator. There are two microphones located up front here. Please move to one of those if you wish to speak and wait to be recognized. When speaking, please identify yourself by name and address for the record. Please try and keep your remarks brief and to the point, and confine them only to the matter under consideration at the time.
4. All speakers at this meeting will be treated with courtesy by the Moderator and everyone else in the room. No speaker will be allowed to use the meeting for personal attacks on any individual. All remarks will be directed towards the Moderator, and while I will allow questions to be asked of individuals, I will not allow cross-examination type discussions from the floor
5. In recognizing people to speak, I will endeavor to call upon those who have not yet spoken on a topic before recognizing those who have already spoken. I will recognize motions to move the question, but if in my opinion there are still people waiting to speak who may add to the discussion, I will exercise my authority to not accept a motion to move the question under those circumstances.
6. If a standing vote is required, you will be instructed to stand at your seats until your vote is counted. If a ballot vote is required, you will be given instructions by the Moderator as to how to proceed.
7. If you wish to make an amendment to any motion, you must do so in writing and present it to the moderator. Please prepare your amendment in writing and bring it to me up here. If you are moving an article that has not been recommended and moved by the Finance Committee, you must also present that motion to the Town Clerk in writing.
8. I remind you all that no motion to reconsider any article will be accepted by the Moderator until at least three articles following the article being reconsidered have been acted upon by this

meeting. If the article is one of the last three on the warrant, I will accept any motions to reconsider them at any time prior to adjourning. Please be aware that any article you act upon tonight can be reconsidered as few as three articles later, so keep that in mind before you rush out after your article. There may be requests this evening to allow non-voters to speak on certain articles. This must be done by a motion voted upon by this meeting. While it is the right and the decision of the meeting to allow or not allow non-residents to speak, please keep in mind they may have information to add to the discussion. All non-voters must approach the moderator if they wish to be heard.

Town Clerk Lucia B. Longhurst read the call and return of service from the Constable as written in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1 (2/3 VOTE)

Motion was made by Michael Fiore to see if the Town will vote to amend the Norton Zoning By-Laws by making the following changes:

Item 1: In §175-22.1 delete the definition of “AS-OF-RIGHT SITING”.

Item 2: In §175-22.2.D delete the following “As-of-right siting development may proceed as an allowed use without the need for a special permit, amendment, waiver or other discretionary approval.”

Item 3: In §175-22-2.E delete the current text and replace with the following: “Special permit. Large scale, ground mounted solar photovoltaic installations located within the Residential 80 or Residential 60 Zoning District shall be allowed only upon grant of a special permit from the Norton Planning Board.”

Item 4: In §175-22.3.A delete the following: “Notwithstanding the foregoing, installations which qualify as an Agricultural Solar Tariff Generation Unit (ASTGU) under the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program pursuant to 225 CMR 20.00 (Regulatory Provisions Specific to ASTGUs), located on cranberry bogs that are active at the time of the submittal of the application may be allowed within areas subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act or any other Town Wetland Bylaw. Nothing herein shall supersede or eliminate applicable requirements of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and any other Town Wetland Bylaw with respect to such installations”

(Petition of Kelly Gallagher) .

Stephen Jurczyk, Chairman of the Planning Board explained that there was a Public Hearing on April 9, 2019. At that meeting they had a discussion with the Petitioners whom presented and explained their reasons to rescind the January 14, 2019 article that passed. After the meeting the Planning Board voted 5-0 to recommend passage of the petitioned article.

Joseph Cogliano started speaking about the project and was asked by the Moderator to not speak about the project only about the article.

Laura LC Parker asked what made the Planning Board change their decision. Joseph Fernandes spoke and said after hearing the issues with the abutter's, they came to realize problems that had not been considered back in January.

ARTICLE PASSES BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

The Special Town Meeting was adjourned by the Moderator at 8:40 pm.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Lucia B. Longhurst
Town Clerk

