

**Town of Lanesborough  
Minutes of the Special Town Meeting  
February 23, 2016  
Fiscal Year 2016**

The Special Town Meeting was held on February 23, 2015, at the Lanesborough Elementary School. Moderator, Robert A. Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The head table was introduced which consisted of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, Members of the Finance Committee, Town Counsel, Mount Greylock School Committee Chair Carrie Greene, Greylock Building Committee Chair Mark Schiek, Superintendent Douglas Dias, the Town Clerk and the Town Secretary. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 148 registered voters in attendance. Shirley Zurrin, Mary Ellen Donna, and Frances Kelly checked in registered voters.

Moderator Reilly noted the posting and return of service of the Warrant.

Moderator Reilly asked attendees for unanimous consent to allow non-voters to speak at Town Meeting. Hearing no objection. So ordered.

**MOTIONS ON ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE 1.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine, permanent and/or temporary easements on the parcels of land shown on plans entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of Narragansett Avenue (Bridge No. L-03-024),” dated January 6, 2016, prepared by Gordon R. Archibald, Inc., said plans on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended, for public way purposes, including, but not limited to, the construction, alteration, maintenance, improvement, repair and/or replacement of the Narragansett Avenue bridge, said bridge project to include grading, wetlands replication, sidewalk, drainage and slope work and utility and driveway installation and construction; and, further, to see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, transfer from available funds, accept gifts or borrow a sum of money for these purposes and any expenses related thereto; and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek authorization and approval of the General Court, which may include a petition brought pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relative to Parcels X-E-3, X-E-4, X-E-6 and X-TR-3, located upon land of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and shown on the aforesaid plans, as may be amended, and to exchange such Town-owned land and/or easements as may be necessary to accomplish the bridge project, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out said acquisitions and other acts authorized herein, or take any other action relative thereto.

*2/3 vote required)  
(Recommended 3-0 by the Board of Selectmen)*

Moderator Reilly read, in its entirety, a slightly modified version of Article 1 as proposed by Town Counsel. The text is printed below:

**ARTICLE 1.** I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine, permanent and/or temporary easements on the parcels of land shown on plans entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of Narragansett Avenue (Bridge No. L-03-024),” dated January 6, 2016, prepared by Gordon R. Archibald, Inc., said plans on file with the Town Clerk, as said plans may be amended, for public way purposes, including, but not limited to, the construction, alteration, maintenance, improvement, repair and/or replacement of the Narragansett Avenue bridge, said bridge project to include grading, wetlands replication, sidewalk, drainage and slope work and utility and driveway installation and construction; and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek authorization and approval of the General Court, which may include a petition brought pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relative to Parcels X-E-3, X-E-4, X-E-6 and X-TR-3, located upon land of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and shown on the aforesaid plans, as may be amended, and to exchange such Town-owned land and/or easements as may be necessary to accomplish the bridge project, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out said acquisitions and other acts authorized herein.

The Moderator asked for a motion to approve. A Motion was made and seconded to approve Article 1 as amended. No objection. So moved.

Donald Dermeyer asked if there was a procedure in place to file grievances or ask for changes or object to what is proposed. Mr. Sieloff stated that 1 or 2 public hearings will take place that residents can attend. Mr. Sieloff stated that the plans the Town has in its possession are only 25% complete. Mark Messana stated that it was his understanding that the vote is for the Board of Selectmen to have the power to take the land by eminent domain, if necessary, but he would like to be notified when the public hearings take place. Moderator Reilly stated that the vote does not need to be 2/3 as stated in the Warrant but only a majority vote since there is no money involved.

Motion made and seconded to approve Article 1 as presented. Vote: Ayes have it (unanimous).

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the Town will discuss the Mount Greylock Regional School District’s planned project to appropriate \$63,887,706 to fund the renovation of and additions to the Mount Greylock Regional Middle School and High School facilities, subject to a construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority for up to 59.68% of such cost. This proposed expenditure of funds will not be legally approved unless the voters of Lanesborough and Williamstown each approve a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion ballot question applicable to that town’s share of the total cost of the project; or take any other action relative thereto.

*(Without any recommendation by the Board of Selectmen)  
(Project Recommended by the Finance Committee 3-2)*

Moderator Reilly read the Article to attendees. A Motion was made and seconded to approve Article 2 as presented. Vote: Ayes have it.

Mark Schiek, Chair of the Mount Greylock School Building Committee gave a PowerPoint Presentation of the project.

The Moderator permitted Ray Jones from the Finance Committee to make a presentation to the Town Meeting in which he questioned several of the points made by the Building Committee.

Residents came forward with questions and concerns which were directed to the Building Committee, the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Superintendent Douglas Dias gave a closing statement.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Knysh, Town Clerk

Footnotes:

[#1] Warrant for Annual Town Meeting