

RESULTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
December 4, 2023
Town of Sheffield
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Special Town Meeting was held on December 4, 2023 at the Mount Everett Regional High School, 491 Berkshire School Road. Town Clerk Felecie Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. There were 147 of the Town's 2,668 registered voters in attendance. Town Clerk Joyce is opened the meeting due to a vacancy of the office of Moderator. The minutes were taken by Nicole Parker, the Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk, until Town Clerk Joyce could swear in a new moderator. Julie Hannum volunteered her services as Moderator for this meeting. A motion was made, it was seconded. *With a show of hands, the motion passed by majority.*

On a motion, by Select Board Chair Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., seconded, to cast one vote for Julie Hannum, *by show of hands, the motion passed by majority.* Moderator Hannum accepted the nomination and Town Clerk Joyce swore her in. Moderator Hannum lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, introduced the head table, Select Board Chair, Robert C. Kilmer, Jr, Select Board Member Rene C. Wood and Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard. She noted that Select Board member Nadine A. Hawver, was unable to attend the meeting. She also recognized the Town Clerk and staff who assist in the logistics of running Town Meeting. Moderator Hannum then offered overview of the Warrant and discussed how voting would go, explaining that voters would have three minutes to speak, must state their name and address and present their green voting rite when it is their turn to speak. Additionally, she explained that the primary voting method would be the use of the Echo 360 electronic polling devices, and lead the assembly in a test vote. All other votes, would be by a show of hands.

Moderator Hannum asked for a motion to dispense with the Town Clerk's reading of the Warrant, it was seconded. *By show of hands, the motion passed by majority.*

ARTICLE 1: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer Jr., to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase, gift, or eminent domain and upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, for general municipal purposes, the fee or lesser interest in all or a portion of the land and improvements thereon located at 1739 Hewins Street identified as Assessor's Parcel Map 8, Block 4, Lot 17, and believed to be described in the deed recorded with the Southern Berkshire District Registry of Deeds in Book 1245, Page 329, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements, execute any and all instruments, and take any and all actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purchase. Discussion ensued. On a motion made by David Rogers-Thieriot, it was seconded, to amend Article 1 to strike "or eminent domain" from the language and to now read: "...to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase or gift..." *The amendment passed by 2/3 majority show of hands as declared by the moderator.* Discussion continued. Moderator Hannum then asked to vote on the article as amended. *The motion passed by substantial majority as declared by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 2: On a motion by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., seconded, to delete Chapter 215 – Flood Hazard Zone from the General Bylaws. *The motion passed by substantial majority as declared by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 3: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded, to amend the General Bylaws, Chapter 126 – Hunting – to read as follows: "No person shall hunt on any Town-owned or private property in the Town of Sheffield on which the owner has conspicuously posted notices with their name and a prohibition on hunting on such land, without written permission of the owner of the land upon which hunting will take place. The written permission must be carried while hunting and be renewed on an annual basis." Discussion ensued. On a motion made by David Rogers-Thieriot, it was seconded, to amend Article 3 to change the word "conspicuously" to "50 feet" and to now read as "No person shall hunt on any Town-owned or private property in the Town of Sheffield on which the owner has posted notices every 50 feet with their name and a prohibition on hunting on such land..."

After discussion on the amendment a hand vote was taken. *The motion to amend failed to pass by a show of hands.* Discussion on Article 3 continued. *The motion passed by substantial majority as declared by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 4: On a motion by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., seconded by Rene C. Wood, to delete Chapter 89 – Community Residences from the General Bylaws. *The motion passed by substantial majority as declared by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 5: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to amend the General Bylaws, by adding Chapter 73 Artificial Light Pollution as written in the Warrant, and amending Section 73-5 #3 to read: See Section 140-3 of the Bylaws for Fines, First Violation shall be applicable if the Select Board ordered a remedy and time frame if it is not enacted within 60 days of their decision; Second Violation, after 90 days, and Third and Subsequent Violation after. On a motion by Rene C. Wood, it was seconded, to amend Article 5 to add a new § 73-3 Exemptions, which shall read: “1) All temporary emergency lighting needed by the Police, Fire Departments, EMS, Ambulance, or other emergency services, as well as all vehicular lights, are exempt. 2) All hazard warning luminaries required by Federal regulatory agencies are exempt. 3) Holiday and string lighting provided its hours of operation or volume of lighting do not impact the use and enjoyment of individual property through artificial light pollution. And to renumber the rest of the sections.” Discussion ensued. *The amendment passed by substantial majority by a show of hands, as called by the moderator.* Discussion continued. On a motion made by David Rogers-Thieriot, it was seconded, to amend Article 5. Amendment to read Exemption 3) as “Holiday and string lighting” and strike the rest of the exemption. After discussion, Neal Chamberlain moved to call the question, it was seconded. *The vote to move the question was taken and passed by majority vote, by a show of hands as declared by the Moderator. The vote to amend the amendment failed by substantial majority as called by the moderator by a show of hands.* Discussion continued briefly until a motion was made by Richard McLoughlin to call the question. *The vote to move the question was taken and passed by substantial majority vote as called by the moderator, by a show of hands.* Moderator Hannum then asked for the vote on the question. *The motion passed by substantial majority as called by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 6: On a motion by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., seconded, to amend Chapter 63 – Animals – by deleting the current 63.2 in its entirety and inserting the new 63.2 as written in the Warrant and new 63.3 Enforcement; violations and penalties to read: See MGL c.140 s.173A, as may be amended for violations and penalties. Discussion ensued. *The motion passed by substantial majority as called by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 7: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer Jr., to amend the General Bylaws by adding Section 55.3 to Chapter 55 – Treasurer-Collector – as written in the Warrant in accordance with MGL Chapter 60, Section 62A. *The motion passed by substantial majority as called by the moderator.*

On a motion by Moderator Hannum, seconded, to adjourn the Meeting at 7:41 PM. The motion passed by majority, by a show of hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Parker

Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk

Felecie Joyce

Town Clerk, CMMC