

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

The Hearing was called to order by Mike at 7:00 p.m. Mike did ask that everyone please silence their phones. Because this is a hearing in person and on-line, we will alternate. We will begin with Article 9.

Article 9 – there were no questions or comments.

Article 10 – there were no questions or comments.

Article 11 – There were many favorable comments on the youth librarian and grateful that we have these new programs for the children and teenagers. any discussion – Elizabeth Vitale – in favor of the youth children’s librarian. It was also state that it does benefit children – young parents meet other parents that is how you build a community through a library. Mike stated that the youth librarian was funded through the ARPA money in the amount of \$25,000 and if they wanted to continue that the library find another resource other than taxpayers.

Article 12 – Brittany stated that the Historical Society must put this before the taxpayers every 5 years to be statutorily exempt.

Article 13 – The 3rd and 4th grade class came and made a presentation to the Selectboard for additional money for the playground. Frank Kampf stated that he was not speaking for the school board and did not put this \$20,000 in the budget to try and keep the budget down as the school budget always gets voted down on the first vote. He and Ellen Cairns did a petition asking the town to put this article on to match the \$20,000 the children have raised. This would be coming from the taxpayers. RD did want to point out that the school came to SB seeking an appropriation after we have exhausted the ARPA funds. It was not that the SB didn’t want to help; the request came after we appropriated the ARPA funds to other requests for Town projects.

Article 14 – Gregg Burt spoke as chairman of the CCIF. They would like to put a hold on any requests from this fund to see if the can build the fund up. They do hold regular meeting and invite anyone that wishes to come to these meetings.

Article 15 – there is nothing in zoning for fences and it has a challenge for the ZA. If people asked to put up fences between properties they would have to go before the DRB. If this passes, both homeowners would only need to sign a permit and the ZA would approve it if it meant all the criteria. Skip wanted to know about agricultural fences. Jenn explained these are exempt. RD stated that by approving this, it makes it easier for residents.

Article 16 – Jenn – this simplifies our parking regulations as we have parking available in the WB and FD in close approximations to downtown for present and future businesses.

Article 17 – The exclusion was that we lost the VCD. It is important to useful for businesses for tax breaks and municipal grants. This is to repair an omission to the Town Plan.

Article 18 – NEKWM – no expense to taxpayers to approve the budget. This will be the last year for this amendment.

Mike wanted to know if there were any other questions, comments, or concerns. We adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer