

Town of Darien
Representative Town Meeting
Rules Committee
Regular Meeting - Monday, February 13, 2012

Attendance: Karen Armour (Ch), Gary Swenson, Seth Morton, Joanne Hennessy, Sarah Seelye, Dennis Maroney, Marty Magida, Ted Hawkins, Debra Ritchie, Sandra Savage, MariLu Cleary, Tony Imbimbo

Absent: Nora McIree (Resigned), Peter Kelly

Call to Order: Ms Armour called the meeting to order at 8:04PM

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes for the January 3, 2012 Rules Committee meeting was approved unanimously with the correction that Tony Imbimbo was not present at the meeting.

Ms Armour reported that she would write a letter to the First Selectman notifying her that the Rules Committee did not see a need to form a Flood and Erosion Control Board.

Pending Items:

TGS&A-- Ms Seelye

1. Chapter 13 - Appendix B- RTM Rules of Procedure- Ms Seelye reported that there was a Public Hearing on Chapter 13 revisions and revisions to the RTM Rules of Procedure on January 17, 2012, but there were no attendees to speak.
2. She had a meeting with the Social Services Commission to start on revisions to that part of the Charter
3. TGS&A is also looking at the Town Administrator position in the Charter
4. Town Counsel is working on revisions to Chapter 13 and Appendix B for the March RTM Meeting
5. Term Limits is also on the TGS&A docket.
6. Plastic Bag ordinance – TGS&A met on the Ordinance and had a few technical changes. TGS&A did vote on the item.
7. March 6 is the next meeting TGS&A

Assignments- Bag Ordinance - Mr. Maroney moved, and it was seconded, to add the Education Committee as a Secondary committee on this item. The Motion failed 1 For, 11 Against, 0 Abstentions with Mr. Maroney voting in favor. Mr. Hawkins noted a question about the ability of the Health Department to enforce requirements of the new plastic bag ordinance, if it passes.

Assignments- New Members- Mr. Imbimbo moved the following assignments for new members from District 1:

- Bob Kernan—PZ&H
- Noel Henderson-PHS
- Peter Firmin- Park and Rec.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Appointment Five Mile River Commission- Ms Armour reported that Dirk Leasure's appointment to the Five Mile River Commission will be on the March RTM Agenda

Redistricting - Ms Armour reported that Voting Redistricting will be on the March Agenda. There has been a Redistricting of the Town to accommodate new 147th Assembly District lines. Darien will still have six districts, but one of them will comprise the pieces of districts 1, 3 and 5 that have been reassigned to the 147th District.

AGENDA - The Following Agenda was proposed for the March 19, 2012 RTM Meeting.

1. Five Mile River Commission appointment
2. Approval new Voting District lines
3. Charter Revisions –Chapter 13
4. Charter Revision- Town Counsel
5. Ordinance Revision - Appendix B

The Agenda was approved unanimously.

Report on Meeting Management – Mr. Maroney discussed the use of Parliamentary Procedures to terminate debate in RTM Meetings before full discussion of an item. He discussed changing the order of presentations in the meetings. Putting the “champions of an issue” first and then have the RTM and elected officials speak next. There was discussion of how to handle Calling The Question. Mr. Swenson and Mr. Imbimbo were asked to look into the treatment of “Calling the Question and “Point of Order”. There was discussion of setting a deadline of September 15 for Committee Chairs to hand in their Annual Reports so that attendance by Committee members could be assessed when assigning Committees. There was discussion of Term Limits for Committee Chairs, but it was felt that could not be enforced. Mr. Swenson requested that the Maroney Sub Committee produce a report on their findings regarding these issues. It was agreed they would have a draft report to present in two weeks.

Annual Budget Vote – There was discussion on dividing the vote on the Annual Budget, as it had been voted in the past. This approach would be a change from the recent practice of bundling the Board of Selectman, Board of Education and Capital Budget into one vote.

Mr. Morton moved and it was seconded to Adjourn.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Clerk