



## Special Town Meeting

December 15, 2020

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. Due to tighter Covid-19 restrictions, this meeting was held virtually with no in-person attendance. The meeting was attended by the Board of Selectmen including First Selectman Angus McDonald and Selectmen Duane Gates and Jim Olson. Registrars of Voters Lori Gregan and Dale Winchell were also in attendance along with residents John Baldwin, Joyce Berardis, Kate Bergeron, Charlie Brashears, Tony Bolduc, Gary Clark, Kate Cryder, Rick Daniels, Joan Defilippo, George Eckenroth, Carol Flaim, Robert Ghinder, John Greene, Lori Guerette, Scott Hallden, Robert Herrick, James Jake, Jason Lamark, Jill Larsen, Ron Larsen, Kim Olson, Jane Samuels, Ben Whalen and Sue Wisner. The meeting was held and recorded via Zoom.

First Selectman Angus McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Olson made a motion to appoint Daniels as Moderator of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gates and was approved by voice vote.

Daniels appointed Town Clerk Amy Winchell to act as clerk of the meeting. Daniels then read the call. He explained that nominations would be taken from the floor to accomplish the action of the call and that the meeting would then be adjourned to an all absentee ballot election.

**1. To compile a slate of nominations for the Municipal Ethics Commission and to elect members to the Municipal Ethics Commission. As the town ordinance adopted requires that the vote for ethics commission members shall be by paper ballot, after the determination of candidates, the meeting will be adjourned for an election by paper ballot. The details of how the voting process will proceed in conformity with pandemic considerations will be explained during the ZOOM meeting, on the town website, and at the Town Clerk's Office.**

Discussion: Winchell explained the election procedure that had been a collaborative effort between the clerk and Town Attorney Jane Marsh to follow the ordinance requirements while adhering to State Covid-19 regulations and election law as much as possible. The application for an absentee ballot is posted on the Town website and was emailed to all who subscribe to news through the website. Since the Town Hall is currently closed to the general public, applications are also available in the drop box at the entrance to the Town Hall. Ballots will become available on December 21<sup>st</sup> and will be mailed to all who have properly applied. All ballots must be returned by January 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. They may be returned by ballot drop box or mailed but a postmark will not count as delivery date. Electors may vote for up to seven candidates but voting for more would cause the ballot to be rejected. The Registrars of Voters will tally the votes and the Town Clerk will determine seats and terms in compliance with Section 9-167a of the Connecticut General Statutes. The commission will be established

by February 2, 2021 as required by the Ordinance Establishing a Municipal Ethics Commission.

Nominations began and were established as follows:

1. **Lamark** was nominated by Clark and seconded by Samuels.
2. **Flaim** was nominated by Whalen and seconded by Jake.
3. **Herrick** was nominated by Brashears and seconded by Guerette.
4. **Defilippo** was nominated by Bergeron and seconded by Samuels.
5. **Greene** was nominated by Guerette and seconded by Cryder.
6. **Caroline Jansen** was nominated by Guerette and seconded by Cryder.
7. **Luther Moen** was nominated by Guerette and seconded by Cryder.
8. **Ghinder** was nominated by Samuels and seconded by Brashears.

Further discussion regarding the nominating process ensued. It was determined that people could not nominate themselves and, unless they had already accepted their nomination via communication with the Town Clerk before this meeting, they would have to be present at this meeting to accept their nomination. It was asked how vacancies would be handled should any candidate withdraw their nomination. Winchell responded that she believed the commission would then be established with vacancies that the Board of Selectmen would appoint as is the process for elected boards and commissions in the Town of Deep River. Bolduc questioned whether Greene's involvement with the Deep River Taxpayers Association should disqualify him from being seated. Winchell did not believe his involvement made him ineligible but agreed to have the Town Attorney approve all of the nominees. Whalen questioned the integrity of Marsh and suggested hiring another attorney for this task. Several disagreed and the subject was dropped.

There being no further discussion, a motion to close the nominations and adjourn this meeting to absentee ballot election was made by Guerette and seconded by Olson. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

ATTEST: Amy M. Winchell, Town Clerk