

**WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BRISTOL, VERMONT**

The legal voters of the Town of Bristol are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED to meet at Holley Hall in said Bristol, on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., said meeting to be recessed at the close of all business to be transacted from the floor to the following day, Tuesday, March 4, 2013 for voting by Australian ballot between the hours of 9:00 a.m., at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 p.m., at which time the polls will close, for the election of officers and voting on those articles so noted.

At 7:00 pm, Fred Baser introduced Selectboard Member's Alan Huizenga, Brian Fox, Joel Bouvier, John "Peeker" Heffernan and Chair Sharon Compagna and Town Administrator Bill Bryant and Town Clerk Therese Kirby. Sharon Compagna made a presentation to Gerald Heffernan, the Town Report Dedictee. Fred noted the passing of Claire Scribner, a valued Town employee. Fred outlined the participatory nature of Town Meeting and its significance. He also introduced Reanna Martin, Chris Carter, Liam Knight and Corina Isbell, the four volunteers from Mr. Desorda's American Studies class who will pass microphones to people who wish to speak. Fred gave a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order. He also asked the assembly if the residents had any objections to Town Administrator Bill Bryant and Representative Mike Fisher speaking, they had none. Representative Mike Fisher updated the assembly on the House Healthcare Committee's agenda and the up's and down's of Vermont Health Connect. He noted Vermont Health Connect began accepting premium payments via credit card today. He feels the current need for healthcare to Vermonters has not yet been met. He said there is a pamphlet in the back of the room with him and Dave's contact information on it. Representative Dave Sharpe updated the assembly of the House Ways and Means Committee's agenda. He noted after thirty years of waiting there are two bridges coming to Bristol; Route 116 and South Street. He also said residents may go to www.leg.state.vt.us to view standing committee web pages so you can see the schedule and topics each committee is discussing. He also discussed solar power and the current tax credits available until 2017, health care financing (six billion spent on healthcare each year) and education financing (an additional 77 million needed over last year). He encouraged people to contact himself or Mike with any questions or concerns. Fred noted he will recess Town Meeting after article 10 for the Bristol Elementary School District meeting. Moderator Fred Baser read the warning.

ARTICLE 1: To act upon the reports of the Town officers.

Robert Bernstein moved the article. Peter Grant seconded. Bob Bernstein wanted to know if the audit was available now. Therese Kirby said yes, it is on the website. Bob wanted to know about the changes in the fund balance for the Landfill, what year it is scheduled to close and how much money will be needed to close it. Bill Bryant stated the landfill is scheduled to close in 2029, but noted that is an estimate and could go further out as we are not taking in the quantity of trash we are permitted for. Estimated closure costs are \$1.3 million at this time, but that amount changes every two years. Bill encouraged people to start using the landfill to help offset the costs of closure. Bob also wanted to know what the water district building reserve is for. Alan Huizenga said it is for capital expenses, not limited to the building. Bob also wanted to know if there is any capital projects currently planned for the water district. Alan Huizenga said yes, the High Street waterline needs to be updated and the Selectboard has contracted for assistance with a capital plan. Bob wanted to know why the highway equipment fund was the only one with a capital plan. Bill said the Fire Department has presented a capital plan recently to the Selectboard and noted some of the other funds do not have a specific plan at this time. Bob Bernstein would like to have all capital plans shown in the Town Report in the future. Bob wanted to know if bridges are included in

the capital road fund. Bill said not usually. Bob wanted to know why the donation to Howden Hall of \$25,000 was not included in the capital fund transactions. Bill noted the money came in this fiscal year so it will show in that location next year. Bob asked about the financing for the new fire station. Sharon Compagna explained there will be a bond vote. Bob encouraged more capital planning. He wanted to know what the Bristol Police Department will pay in rent for their new facility. Fred Baser said \$2,500 per month with a ten year lease. Fred noted questions relating to the Bristol Police budget should have been asked at the Bristol Police District meeting held earlier this evening. Bob questioned the \$250,000 loan to Bristol Works and wondered if this was voted on by the Bristol Police District. Fred said no, the Revolving Loan Committee recommended the loan to the Selectboard via their normal process. The Selectboard then approved the loan. Craig Allen wanted to know if the Selectboard had thought of putting money from the undesignated fund balance towards the landfill closure fund. Sharon Compagna said closing the landfill is an ongoing discussion and Craig's idea is something to think about. Ken Weston wanted to know about the municipal solid waste program listed in the general fund and how that relates to the landfill budget. Bill explained despite having a landfill, the Town would still have an obligation to deal with the resident's solid waste under state statute. So, in order to increase the landfills ability to saving money towards closure, the Selectboard voted a couple of years ago to move recycling costs into the general fund. Willow Wheelock asked about the five year increase in taxes regarding the appropriations. Pecker Heffernan said the Selectboard moved \$95,000 in paving costs to the capital road fund and out of the general fund budget. He explained the difficulties of getting paving work done by June 30 and if the work is not done within the fiscal year, the money goes into the undesignated fund balance. Willow liked the explanations given in the capital funds budget, but would like to know what the Howden Hall expenses were. Joel Bouvier explained the money was spent on the remodeling. She also wanted to know why the garage electricity expenses were up and Joel said it was due to the recycling compactor. Article one passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 2: To elect Town Officers by Australian ballot.

Fred Baser encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow.

ARTICLE 3: Will the voters of the Town of Bristol vote that all real property taxes payable in installments shall bear interest at a rate of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of each installment with the payment to the Town Treasurer of the real property taxes for the Town's fiscal year period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, being due in two equal installments on November 5, 2014 and April 5, 2015?

Therese Kirby moved the article. Peter Grant seconded. Ken Weston asked if the interest was compounded monthly. Therese said yes. Article three passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: To set salaries that shall be paid to the members of the Selectboard.

Lance Perlee moved the article. Peter Grant seconded. Sharon Compagna said the Selectboard salaries are currently \$500 per year and \$15 per meeting. Bob Bernstein moved for it to remain the same. Peter Grant seconded. Article four was amended to say the salaries should remain the same. The amended article four passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year Highway Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$714,268, a portion thereof in the amount of \$609,618 to be raised by taxes; the tax rate on the 2014 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

Peter Grant moved the article. Eve Thompson seconded. Willow Wheelock thanked the road crew for

their great work. Peeker Heffernan explained the budget decrease was due to the transfer of \$95,000 from the highway budget to the capital road paving budget listed in the appropriations. Randy Crowe wanted to thank Dan Gebo, who recently retired from the Road Crew, for his many years of service to the Town. Willow Wheelock wanted to know if there is any unintended consequence in moving the money from the highway budget to a capital fund. Joel Bouvier explained the Selectboard's rationale and said there are no unintended consequences. Joel said Dan Gebo retired last Thursday after 27 years of service. Bob Bernstein wanted to know if he had a retirement party. Joel said yes, there was a small gathering at the Town Garage last Friday. Ken Weston wanted to know if there needed to be a vote before money can be spent from capital funds. Bill said there is a tradition in Bristol that voters approve money going into a capital fund, but the Selectboard has the authority to spend it. Fred recognized Road Foreman Peter Bouvier for his dedication to the Town and the great job the Road Crew does under his direction. Bob Bernstein wanted to know about the vacancy on the road crew. Bill said the plan is to fill the position as of July 1, 2014. Article 5 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: Will the voters authorize the Selectboard to expend up to \$200,000 for purchase of a tandem dump truck and winter equipment to replace a 2004 tandem dump truck and winter equipment, the funds for said purchase to be charged to the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund and the proceeds from the sale of the old truck to be deposited to the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund?

Lance Perlee moved the article. Peter Grant seconded. Merle Knight of the Equipment Committee spoke and noted on page 35 and 36 there is a long range plan in place. Article six passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$714,435, a portion thereof in the amount of \$511,385 to be raised by taxes; and to designate that \$30,000 be taken from the June 30, 2013 undesignated fund balance to offset taxes for the 2014-2015 fiscal year; the tax rate on the 2014 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

Peter Grant moved the article. Lance Perlee seconded. Peter Grant wondered when the Selectboard sets the tax rate. Joel Bouvier said July. Article 7 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: Will the voters adopt the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year Arts, Parks and Recreation Department budget in the amount of \$259,649, a portion thereof in the amount of \$177,399 to be raised by taxes; the tax rate of the 2014 Grand List of the Town sufficient to raise said sum as taxes to be determined by the Selectboard?

Peter Grant moved the article. Kelly Laliberte seconded. Ken Weston would like to know why the Town Parks budget is not included in the Arts, Parks & Recreation Budget. Bill said it is a discussion he and Darla started having recently. Fred Baser recognized Darla Senecal and Valerie Hanson for the nice job they do running the Bristol Recreation Department. Chris Klyza agrees with Ken, that the parks budget should be moved. Article 8 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the voters appropriate the following sums to be placed in various Town Reserve Fund accounts as noted:

<u>Reserve Fund:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Capital Fire Equipment Reserve	\$15,000
Capital Highway Equipment Reserve	\$80,000
Capital Building Reserve	\$20,000
Capital Road Fund - Construction	\$35,000
Capital Road Fund – Paving	\$95,000
Conservation Reserve Fund	\$10,000

Reappraisal Reserve	\$ 5,000
Total:	\$260,000

Peter Grant moved the article. Howie McCausland seconded. Article 9 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the voters authorize the transfer from the June 30, 2013 undesignated fund balance of the General Fund of \$20,000 to the Capital Building Reserve Fund, \$5,000 to the Capital Road Fund/Paving and \$5,000 to the Capital Fire Equipment Reserve Fund?

Peter Grant moved the article. Howie McCausland seconded. Article 10 passed by a voice vote.

Fred Baser recessed Town Meeting at 8:15 pm for the Town School Meeting. Fred reopened Town Meeting at 9:10 pm.

ARTICLE 11: Will the voters approve an appropriation of \$122,128 for the Lawrence Memorial Library for its annual operating budget, said sum to be raised by taxes?

Howie McCausland moved the article. Moira Garrity seconded. Article 11 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Will the voters approve an appropriation of \$13,000 to the Bristol Recreation Club, Inc. to cover maintenance and improvements to the grounds and facilities located at the Bristol Recreation Field and to add to the Club's Capital Expenditure Fund for future improvements?

Lisa Hoff moved the article. Claire Wallace seconded. Fred Baser noted the Bristol Recreation Club is a separate entity from the Town. Article 12 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: Will the voters renew the exemption of the Bristol Recreation Club for its property located on Airport Drive from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §3840?

Lance Perlee moved the article. Lisa Hoff seconded. Article 13 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Will the voters renew the exemption of the Libanus Lodge No. 47 for its property located at 4 Elm Street from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §3840?

Lance Perlee moved the article. Dick Merrill seconded. Brenda Tillberg wanted to know what value the Libanus Lodge brings to the Town. Jim Burt said he was glad Brenda asked. He said the Libanus Lodge has been here since 1826. He explained the Lodge has been host to hunter safety classes, monthly senior meals for \$3, donates to Cystic Fibrosis, they have donated to MAUHS to assist with starting the Fire Fighter School, they have a MAUHS scholarship for graduates, they have hosted funerals, eagle scout celebrations, a free barbeque on the park, donates \$500 to the Warm The Children Fund which goes to one of the 5 town schools each year, have donated to Have A Heart food shelf, give fruit baskets each year to widows of Masons, donates to the Fourth of July Parade, Project Graduation, Elderly Services and the Care program. The lodge is owned by the Masons. Willow Wheelock thanked them for their service and wanted to know if their building is handicap accessible. Jim said they just received a sizeable donation and are hoping to earmark money to build a ramp; currently in order to access downstairs people need to use the stairs. Vickie Greenhouse wanted to know if 32 V.S.A applies only to tax exempt organizations. Dave Sharpe said 32 VSA applies to certain properties that are exempt by State and Federal law, and this particular statute requires voter approval. He does not think they have to be a tax exempt organization, but did state residents must make up the school tax. Carol Clauss wanted to know what the tax liability is. Lance Perlee said page 33 gives the value. Article 14 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: Will the voters renew the exemption of the Bristol Post#19 American Legion for its property located at 5 Airport Drive from real estate taxes for a period of five (5) years pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §3840?

Lance Perlee moved the article. Tim Heffernan seconded. Tim said the American Legion purchased the Animal Hospital and eventually would like to build a new legion. He wondered if he could add the old animal hospital to this article, but Fred said not at this time. Tim did state that at this time, the American Legion rents out the old Animal Hospital building. Article 15 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: Will the voters appropriate the sum of \$10,105 to Addison County Transit Resources?

Lisa Hoff moved the article. Naomi Drummond seconded. Tom Wallace wanted to know what the change in the article is. Bill Bryant said ACTR wanted \$605 more this year than last. Peeker Heffernan said ACTR came to them hoping to increase the amount of Bristol's appropriation, the Selectboard agreed, but spread the increase over three years. Naomi Drummond updated the assembly on ACTR news. Elin Melchior wanted people to know that ACTR drivers will stop at places other than the bus stops for riders. Article 16 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: Will the voters appropriate the sum of \$12,000 to Bristol Rescue Squad?

Howie McCausland moved the article. Claire Wallace seconded. Article 17 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: Will the voters appropriate the following sums in support of the organizations listed below, with said amounts being level funded or lowered from the prior year?

<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Addison County Court Diversion	\$1,150
Addison County Home Health	\$4,700
Addison County Humane Society	\$1,000
Addison County Parent Child Center	\$4,800
Addison County Readers Program	\$2,000
Bristol After School Program	\$1,275
Bristol Band	\$1,200
Bristol Cemetery Association	\$7,000
Bristol Downtown Community Partnership	\$10,000
Bristol Family Center	\$4,000
Bristol Fourth of July Committee	\$6,000
Bristol Historical Society	\$2,500
Bristol Little League	\$2,000
Champlain Valley Agency on Aging	\$2,700
Counseling Service of Addison County	\$3,875
Elderly Services	\$2,200
Hope (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)	\$3,250
Hospice Volunteer Services	\$1,200
John Graham Emergency Shelter	\$1,400
New Haven River Watch	\$ 300
North East Addison Television (NEAT)	\$3,500
Open Door Clinic	\$1,000

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	\$ 750
Vermont Adult Learning	\$1,650
WomenSafe	<u>\$3,500</u>
Total:	\$72,950 .

Ken Weston moved the article with the stipulation that Fred did not have to read it again. Claire Wallace seconded. Article 18 passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 19: Will the voters adopt the proposed amendment to the Town of Bristol Zoning Regulations regarding the creation of a new zoning district to be known as the Bristol Pond Camp District, as submitted by the Planning Commission and approved by the Selectboard on January 27, 2014? The complete text of the proposed Bylaw is on file at the Town Clerk’s office and copies are available to the public upon request. *(This article to be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, but may be discussed from the floor of the open portion of Town Meeting on Monday evening, March 3, 2014).*

Article for discussion only. Brenda Tillberg wanted to know what this article is about. Kris Perlee, a Planning Commission (PC) member, said this amendment was brought to the PC by camp owners. In current zoning regulations, none of the camp owners could modify their properties due to the size of the setbacks. These are properties on the eastern side of the pond. Bob Donnis wanted to know if this zoning change allows for new camps to be built and if so how far from the pond. Kris said this change would not allow new construction and as for distance from the pond, the PC utilized state regulations for distances from the water. Bob asked if this would require replacement of vegetation and Kris said yes they require a vegetative buffer between the camp and the pond. Ken Weston updated the assembly on the history of the camps surrounding the pond. Dave Rosen would have liked to have seen information on this article in the town report. Sharon Compagna appreciated Dave’s suggestion. She also stated two public hearings have been held on this proposed change and the information was available at the Town Clerk’s Office. Bunny Daubner wanted to know what happens procedurally if this article is voted down. Kris said if the article is voted down, there will be no change as the current rules would still apply, but the PC could try again to pass this amendment in 2015. Caroline Engvall wanted to know what type of changes camp owners are looking for. Kris explained due to the current setback requirements; owners cannot make any changes to their properties, so owners came to the PC for reductions in those setbacks. Bob Donnis assumes if there is a change to the property there would be an increase in the tax base and Kris said yes.

ARTICLE 20: To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting.

Lance Perlee moved the article. Joel Bouvier seconded. Joel thanked Alan Huizenga for his service to the community for the past six years. Sharon Compagna said how much she had enjoyed working with Alan and she wished Dan Gebo the best of luck on his future endeavors. She also wanted to acknowledge the nice job Fred does as moderator, thanked the current board for their dedication and said she looks forward to working with the board for another two years. Fred asked people to put help put the chairs away. Randy Crowe moved to adjourn. Jim Quaglino seconded. Town meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm via a voice vote.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Therese Kirby
Clerk**

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Bristol duly called, noticed and held on

January 27, 2014. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Bristol on January 27, 2014.

Bristol Selectboard:

Sharon Compagna, Chair

John "Peeker" Heffernan

Alan Huizenga

Joel Bouvier

Brian Fox

ATTEST:

Therese Kirby, Town Clerk