

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
AT MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
600 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD
DECEMBER 11, 2019 AT 6:00 PM
MINUTES**

In pursuance of the foregoing warrant the inhabitants of the Town of Great Barrington qualified to vote in Town Meetings proceeded to vote at the above named meeting place with the following results. The meeting was duly called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Moderator Michael Wise who welcomed everyone to the Special Town Meeting. He noted that he hoped to conclude all business this evening. Mr. Wise stated that there was a quorum present and noted the return and service of the warrant. He also asked that cell phones be shut off as well. Mr. Wise requested that everyone stand and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The rules of the meeting were explained by Mr. Wise. The meeting will be governed by the Massachusetts General Laws, the Bylaws of the Town of Great Barrington and Town Meeting Time. More specifically, Mr. Wise reminded everyone of the fire/safety regulations and requested that there be no standing or sitting in the aisles. Only registered voters of the town may participate in the meeting unless permission is granted by the Moderator. The Moderator did grant prior permission for non-resident Barbara Kellogg to speak. Before anyone addresses the Town Meeting, he/she must proceed to the microphone and when recognized by the Moderator state their name and address. Mr. Wise requested that voters speak only once per motion and limit their comments to three minutes. Comments should be limited to the merits of the motion and should not be repeated. All motions and amendments must be made in writing and any motion to reconsider must be made within 15 minutes of the announced vote. All questions are to be addressed to the Moderator who will ask the appropriate person to respond. Each voter has received a warrant, a green card and a packet of yes/no cards. Mr. Wise will instruct voters when these are to be used and what color to use if needed. He noted that a counter has been assigned to each section of the auditorium and will report their numbers by going to the microphone to announce them.

The Moderator introduced the people on the stage: Town Clerk Jennifer Messina, Town Manager Mark Pruhenski and Town Counsel David Doneski.

A motion was made by Ellen Murtagh, seconded by someone in the audience to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

VOTED AT 6:08 PM

ARTICLE 1: (by petition)

To see if the Town will vote to present the Home Rule Petition set forth below to the General Court, that the Town's representatives in the General Court be requested to immediately introduce

legislation as set forth below and ask that the General Court enact such legislation; further that the General Court may make constructive changes in the text hereof as may be necessary or advisable to accomplish the intent of this proposed legislation in order to secure its passage.

“AN ACT concerning horse racing within the town of Great Barrington

Be it enacted in the Senate and house of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that the citizens of Great Barrington have the opportunity to decide whether the long abandoned practice of horse racing in their town shall return.

SECTION 2. For purposes of this act, “horse racing” shall mean every meeting where horses are raced and where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of horses shall be permitted.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of M.G.L. c. 128A, section 13A, M.G.L. c. 271, section 33, nor any other general or special law to the contrary, there shall be no license granted by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission nor any other state or local Commission or agency, for horse racing within the Town of Great Barrington, unless or until the Citizens of said Town shall approve such license and the resumption of horse racing in said Town at an annual town meeting and confirmed by a majority vote ballot in said Town.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.”

or otherwise act thereon.

On a motion by Janel Munoa and seconded by someone in the audience, I move that the Town present this Home Rule petition to the General Court: The Town’s representatives in the General Court are requested to immediately introduce legislation as set forth in warrant article 1 and to ask that the General Court enact such legislation; further that the General Court may make constructive changes in the text thereof as may be necessary or advisable to accomplish the intent of this proposed legislation in order to secure its passage.

Barbara Kellogg made a brief presentation on this citizen petition.

The following people spoke:

Leigh Davis
Laura Keefner
Vivian Orłowski
Carol Diehl
Mathew Rubiner
Sidney Kleinman

Eileen Rosenthal
Charles Plungis Jr.
George Beebe
Dana Dapolito
Mark Cohen

VOTED AT 6:40 PM

Motion to adjourn made by someone in the audience and seconded by another person in the audience.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Total of 292 voters out of 4,869 total registered voters turned out (6%).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer L. Messina".

Jennifer L. Messina
Town Clerk