

**Citizens for Milford
Public Meeting, September 16, 2014**

Opening

Members of Citizens for Milford met at the Milford Town Library with other interested members of the community. Approximately 25 people attended, including eight non-CFM members. Bill Shaner from the Milford Daily News attended for the first half of the meeting.

Co-chairman Steve Trettel opened the meeting with kind words regarding the tragic loss of David Morganelli, and we all shared a moment of silence.

Steve and Co-chairman John Seaver both reviewed a list of suggestions that have been made to us, noting the ones we have decided to pursue.

Board of Health and Building Report

John and Steve both explained that we had invited Paul Mazzuchelli and John Erickson to attend a recent CFM meeting and present to us information about health and building codes. It was emphasized that they welcome reports of problematic properties from residents; residents can simply call or email them at Town Hall to report concerns.

Town Meeting Reforms

Steve and John also reviewed the list of suggestions from Reno Deluzio regarding how to improve Town Meeting. They noted that Jose Costa will be working with Mr. Deluzio to determine how to proceed. Town Meeting Moderator Michael Noferi was in attendance. He pointed out that a big improvement could be made in encouraging participation. Mr. Noferi also explained that he is willing to answer questions from anyone anytime.

Regarding the idea of providing a better explanation for articles, John Seaver suggested that CFM could focus on providing information regarding controversial issues, listing the pros and cons.

A discussion ensued regarding how to address nonattendance: could attendance rates be posted on the ballot? Or in the newspaper or on the CFM website? How can we inform the public regarding the Town Meeting members who don't show up regularly so new people can be voted in?

Mike Visconti suggested that residents be encouraged to contact the TM members to share their opinions, as this is supposed to be a representative form of government. Tom Russ noted that voters need to be educated about who each precinct's TM members are so that voters can share their views.

Diane Canino wondered if it would be possible to review what works in TM in other communities.

Beverly Swymer summed this conversation by saying we have a huge educational opportunity here. Rosemary Trettel proposed we get more involved.

Seasonal Decorations

Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli was unable to join us, so Beverly summarized the efforts of the Holiday Decorations committee as a means of pushing the effort to revitalize downtown. The plan includes holiday wreaths and banners, American flags, displayed on light poles downtown on a regular alternating schedule. The BOS is investigating how to cover the initial investment that would be required. The goal is to have the wreaths and winter banners up for the Santa parade this year.

Candidates Forum

Geri Eddins summarized all the details for the Candidates Forum next month and encouraged people to come and bring questions for the candidates. The forum will be held Thursday, October 23rd starting at 7:00 p.m. in the upper chamber of Milford Town Hall. The forum will feature the incumbent and challenging candidates for the Milford area's state representative and state senator: State Representative John V. Fernandes (Democrat) and his challenger Mark Reil (Republican) and State Senator Richard Moore (Democrat) and his challenger Ryan Fattman (Republican).

Open Discussion

Steve and John opened the meeting to discussion of other ideas and concerns from attendees.

- Terra Friedrichs from Acton presented information regarding the PassMass Amendment, an amendment geared at preventing corporations from being legally identified as people, with the ultimate goal of restricting corporate donations to political campaigns.
- Glenn Wiech from Move to Amend spoke about the national version of this campaign. He invited everyone to attend a public forum on Monday, 9/22 in the new Franklin High School at 7:30 PM.
- Donna Horrigan discussed the need to have a better understanding about what each town department and committee does and how they work together. What are the checks and balances?
- Jose Pereira explained his concern regarding the dilapidated houses on his street and asked for advice about how to follow up. It was suggested that he call John Erickson and the Milford Housing Authority (apparently one of the houses is an MHA home).
- Diane Canino suggested we investigate ways to improve citizen involvement and education, particularly regarding climate change.
- Steve Trettel reported that he was recently voted chairman of the Middle School East reuse committee.
- John Seaver reported that we are planning a town-wide beautification day in the spring, something that has been requested by many folks as a project for us.
- Brian Ashmankus from Repeal the Casino Deal urged us all to Vote YES on 3 and to help in any way we can. He is leading a crew of people this Sunday to canvass in Grafton at 5:00 PM. If you can help, please email him at RepealFieldDirector@gmail.com or call him at 774-276-1281.

The next public meeting will be held in the same space in the Milford Town Library on January 14, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Geri Eddins
September 16, 2014