



## **TOWN OF MARBLEHEAD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

*Moderator's Committee to Report on the Costs of Implementing Article 44*  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 9:00 AM, Hybrid Meeting, Abbot Hall  
Minutes taken by Amy Drinker

**Present:** Amy Drinker, Katharine Redmond, Laurie Blaisdell, Nancy Powell, Lynn Nadeau, and Thatcher Kezer  
**Remote:** Jeff Shribman, Chair, and Pat Franklin

Amy Drinker, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

After some technology challenges regarding hybrid connections the meeting proceeded.

Motion to approve the **March 15, 2023 meeting minutes:** Discussion: the statement that committee minutes are posted on the town's website is correct, but it is now noted that the minutes available for review are not always up to date:  
<https://www.marblehead.org/minutes-and-agendas>.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023 was made with a second, those voting in favor were: Amy Drinker, Katharine Redmond, Laurie Blaisdell, Nancy Powell, Pat Franklin, and Lynn Nadeau. Thatcher Kezer abstained and Jeff Shribman voted present.

#### **Review of spreadsheet "Marblehead Municipal Buildings Hybrid Costs & Use"**

After review and edits by the Article 44 Study Committee, this spreadsheet will be made available to the Finance Committee for its Monday April 10 warrant Article Hearing.

- There was discussion regarding the section "4. Other" and how future expenditures specific to the Mary Alley Municipal Building should be regarded. The suggestion was made to change the "4. Other" heading to "4. Mary Alley Municipal Building Considerations."
- The future objective for the conference room on the lower floor of the Mary Alley Municipal Building is to create a space with internet connectivity and hybrid meeting capabilities where public bodies can convene, especially those that do not have municipal staff support for securing the building after the meeting. This would include ADA compliant access (doorways, entrances, bathroom) to the space. Fixing the building's elevator is an issue to be addressed by the town.

#### **Review of summary report to the Finance Committee**

After review and edits by the Article 44 Study Committee, this summary report will be made available to the Finance Committee for its Monday April 10 warrant Article Hearing.

- The Article 44 Study Committee will consider feedback from the Finance Committee (at its warrant article hearing) regarding ways to clarify the final version of the summary report for Town Meeting.
- It was noted that public bodies, especially those with regulatory responsibilities, would lose their ability to carry out their work if they were only allowed to meet with hybrid connectivity, which is a stricter threshold than required under MA covid regulations for Open Meeting Law (committees may meet in person if hybrid technology is not operational as long as the meeting has been properly posted and the meeting place is accessible for in-person attendance).
- Copy-edit corrections were noted for the summary document prior to sending to the Finance Committee.

#### **Review of narrative "Marblehead Municipal Buildings Hybrid Capabilities"**

After review and edits by the Article 44 Study Committee, this narrative will be made available to the Finance Committee for its Monday April 10 warrant Article Hearing.

- Copy-edit corrections were noted for the narrative document prior to sending to the Finance Committee.
- The Article 44 Study Committee will check with the Recreation and Parks Department re: evening and summer evening hours and revise this report accordingly before sending to the Finance Committee.

#### **Article 44 Study Committee final report to May 2023 Town Meeting**

- Based on the summary report to the Finance Committee, Article 44 Study Committee members are asked to submit sections for inclusion in the Town Meeting report to Amy Drinker, along with items that need clarification/rewording. The summary report, to be read by Jeff Shribman, will be accompanied by a slide deck and supplemental documents available for review by members of Town Meeting via a website link provided by the moderator.

**Other business**

On April 3 2023, Amy Drinker received four emails to her private email address from individuals expressing support for hybrid/remote meetings. "...As an appointed representative of the People, please ensure my voice is acknowledged in next steps and into Meeting Minutes. Accessibility to town government is essential." Those four individuals were: Rebecca Whitehill, Kathy Hempel, Rosaleen Doherty, and Amy Drinker.

**Public comment:** none.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 9:15 AM at Abbot Hall.

<https://www.marblehead.org/minutes-and-agendas>

By a **MOTION** and second from the committee, and voted unanimously at the table by Amy Drinker, Katharine Redmond, Laurie Blaisdell, Nancy Powell, Lynn Nadeau and Thatcher Kezer, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 AM. Meeting minutes submitted by Amy Drinker, committee recording secretary.

**NOTES:**

**Information regarding Massachusetts open meeting law can be found on the mass.gov website:**

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-guide-and-educational-materials>

<https://www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law>

**Updated guidance on holding meetings pursuant to the Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures**

(now extended until March 31, 2023)

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/updated-guidance-on-holding-meetings-pursuant-to-the-act-extending-certain-covid-19-measures>

**The Town of Marblehead ARPA Spending Plan as of October 12, 2022 can be found at:**

[https://www.marblehead.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4661/f/uploads/2022-10-12\\_select\\_board\\_arpa\\_presentation.pdf](https://www.marblehead.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4661/f/uploads/2022-10-12_select_board_arpa_presentation.pdf)

**The 193<sup>rd</sup> General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**

**An Act to modernize participation in public meetings**

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD3261>

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD2017>

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H3025>

**TOWN OF MARBLEHEAD 2023 TOWN WARRANT**

[https://www.marblehead.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4661/f/uploads/2023\\_annual\\_town\\_meeting\\_warrant\\_final.pdf](https://www.marblehead.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4661/f/uploads/2023_annual_town_meeting_warrant_final.pdf)