

Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham Newsletter

Issue #6, June 2004

NOTICE:
OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON June 10, 2004
7:30 PM - WILBRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our Articles of the Warrant meeting went well and our meeting was well attended. The consensus is that we should have it every year. There were 6 articles that took the majority of the time.

- Article 2, Amendment to the town buy-laws regarding the "Personnel Board"
- Article 3 to cause the printing of town employees salaries
- Article 4 was the provisional bonding for the possible open land purchase of the Rice Fruit Farm, parcel A & B
- Article 5, Finance Committee selection: Moderator vs Selectmen
- The hiring of an Assistant Town Administrator
- New building zone PURD, Planned Unit Residential District. The crowd was involved and interested in the issues at hand.

The Town Meeting was attended by about 320 townspeople. Many of the attendees were there with a primary interest in passing Article 4.

Article 2 on revising the procedures for the Personal Board recommendations failed closely: Yes 148, No 158. The ensuing discussion was quite long, and some felt, counterproductive

Article 3 passed causing the town salaries to be printed every other year in the Town Report.

Article 4 was the provisional Bonding approval. Sherry Himmelstein, President of the Minnechaug Land Trust made a solid and well informed presentation on behalf of acquiring Rice Farm as open land. This provisional bonding issue passed by a large margin

Article 5 was our desire to have the Finance Committee appointed by the Town Moderator instead of the Selectmen. It went down to defeat. Many of us still feel that a more independent selection of the Finance Committee would better all around for our town. The measure was defeted.

The Town Meeting decided to fund an Assistant Town Administrator. A great deal was made of the virtue of the position and it's value regarding all things having to do with Grants. I observed that on the Wilbraham TV , Channel 5, that 3 screens of duties and job requirements for the position mentioned only briefly anything having to do with grants.

Article 22, age restricted housing, PURD, passed easily. Our thinking that this is a concept that is a double edged sword and may serve only to make more family housing available.

The balance of the Articles were mostly routine and non contentious and all passed.

Our Board of Directors meet on June 3, 2004 and reviewed CCW's first year and discussed where we want to go in our future. It was brought up that while our membership stands currently at 173, we have far many more friends and people in town that agree with and support our organization so we having a positive impact. We will be having a summer break with no meetings in July or August. It will be our objective to encourage more questions and answers at our meetings and have generally more audience participation during our 2004-2005 session.

We want to encourage you all to take the time to write letters to the editors of our three newspapers. I can almost guarantee that they will be published. In July and August we are going to try an after lunch "informational meeting" at the Senior Center some time after the meal is completed. Daytime meetings have been requested for many who do not like to or cant get out in the evenings. We are also considering a monthly, 3 member, information show for WPA TV. The idea is to bring forth ideas from the CCW point of view.

You have noticed that I have enclosed a small envelope with this mailing. No, we are not looking for any additional contributions. What I would like you to do is to write a short note as to how we are doing and suggestions for the future. Any thoughts you have will be helpful. I would also ask that you include a few of the ways that you can help our organization. Maybe just phoning or typing or running the video cam or stuffing envelopes, anything. Ideas to help us to be more informative or communicate better. So please use the envelope to talk to us. We need the volunteers to help us to become better and more involved.

There will be no July or August Meeting - Have a nice summer!
Our next meeting after June 10th is on Thursday, September 2, 2004
at 7:30 PM at the Middle School - 466 Stony Hill Road
Please come. Bring a Friend!

Other Important Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectmen Meetings
Mondays, June 7 & 21, 2004 at 7:00 PM Town Hall

Finance Committee
Wednesdays, June 8, 2004 7:00 PM at Town Hall

School Committee Meeting
Tuesday June 8, 2004, 7:00 PM Thornton Burgess
Tuesday June 22, 2004, 7:00 PM MRHS

National Election
Tuesday, November 2, 2004
There will be town issues on the ballot also

www.concernedcitizensofwilbraham.org