

Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 7:00pm
Conference Room A, Town Hall

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 7pm on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 with three board members; the Town Administrator and the Asst. Town Administrator, Selectpersons Murphy and Lucas were not present.

The Town Administrator said she discovered on Friday that the portion of the Town Meeting (Special Town Meeting) needs to be rescheduled and re-posted as the 14 day posting requirement wasn't followed. The Annual Town Meeting can take place as planned. There are different posting requirements for a Special Town Meeting.

The Special Town Meeting needs to be rescheduled; it was posted for 9am, the Annual Town Meeting was scheduled for 9:30am on 4/2/16.

Moderator Visnick said we tried to be creative and stay within the confines of the by-law. He said Town Counsel confirmed that we need to re-notice the meeting with the 14 day rule. He said it doesn't need to be on a Saturday, and school vacation is coming up in April, but a Saturday might be best.

Chairperson Battistelli said some items on the Special Town Meeting are the Stretch Code and the Millbrook dredging. T. Mikus, Marmion Way, said the stretch code can only go into effect on July 1 or January 1 and it requires 6 months from the passage of Town Meeting. S. Jacques said a critical issue on the dredging is that the funds be available in this fiscal year, they can get started earlier. June Michaels said the sludge is sitting in the DPW yard waiting and the disposal of that is included in the cost.

R. Visnick said every spring we open and close the Special Town Meeting; there is no legal reason to have two meetings on that date. He said he hopes in the future we don't call it two separate meetings. The Government By-Law committee can work on this. His preference is that we call it two separate meetings; an Annual Town Meeting Part I and Part II. We could change our by-laws to reflect this.

To inform residents of the change of date for the Special Town Meeting, we can use Code Red, put a piece in the Gloucester Times; and we can send postcards out to every voter. Selectperson Wilkinson said we should emphasize that the Annual Town Meeting is still being held at 9:30 on Saturday, 4/2/16.

S. Jacques mentioned the petition article on the Annual Town Meeting, regarding changing the meeting; he said this could be a good experiment. He said the By-Law Committee should review the day of the week as well.

It was decided that Saturday, 4/30/16 would be the best date to hold the Special Town Meeting.

S. Coulbourn suggested that when the Annual Town Meeting starts at 9:30am, on Saturday, 4/2/16, an announcement be made that the Special Town Meeting is rescheduled to 4/30/16 at 9am.

Selectperson Wilkinson moved to hold the Special Town Meeting on Saturday, April 30, 2016 beginning at 9am, in the School auditorium, seconded by Selectperson Sheedy, Vote: 3-0.

T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said his recommendation, for financial aspects, is the whole thing should be shifted forward one month so that you wouldn't have last minute figures in January. Selectperson Wilkinson recommended his suggestions go to the Government and By-Law Committee so they can review that as well.

Selectperson Wilkinson moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectperson Sheedy, Vote: 3-0.

Items Signed:

ABCC, My Place by the Sea