

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
March 28, 2017

The Special Town Meeting of the Town of Voluntown was held at the Voluntown Elementary School, 195 Main Street, Voluntown, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purposes wit:

The meeting was called to order by Robert Sirpenski, First Selectman with the reading of the Notice of Special Town Meeting.

Pamela E. Theroux, Town Clerk served as clerk for the meeting.

Item # 1: Call for the moderator by the Clerk. Jim Thevenet made a motion to nominate Ronald Millovitsch as moderator, which was seconded by Louis Gardella. There were no other nominations. A vote was called for and all were in favor of Ronald Millovitsch serving as moderator. So carried. Ronald Millovitsch will serve as moderator.

Item #2: To consider and act upon the following RESOLUTION regarding the appointment of a Historic Properties Study Committee:

THE TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN, CONNECTICUT HEREBY RESOLVES that:

The First Selectman, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 7-147q(a), is hereby authorized to appoint a Historic Properties Study Committee, consisting of five regular and three alternate members, to serve at his pleasure, for the sole purpose of making an investigation and submitting a report, in the manner provided by Connecticut General Statutes sub-sections 7-147q(b) and (c), as to whether either or both of the Town-owned properties located at 531 Ekonk Hill Rd, Voluntown, Connecticut (the "Wylie School House") and at 2 Church Street, Voluntown, Connecticut (the "Old Methodist Church") only, and no other property(ies) in the Town of Voluntown, Connecticut, should be designated as a historic property(ies).

Jennifer Panko made a motion to approve Item #2. Ronald Millovitsch seconded it. Item #1 was opened for discussion. There was discussion from many citizens both for and against the property at 2 Church Street (the "Old Methodist Church"). Jennifer Panko reminded everyone that the vote this evening is on creating a Historical Properties Study Commission not on the fate of the Church and more discussion followed. A motion was made by Jim Thevenet to close discussion, but no second was heard before discussion was continued. Questions and answers regarding what the next steps would be after the Committee is formed and what it will mean for the town. There was also more discussion regarding the church. Chris Chabot asked the rational between having both the Wylie School House and the Methodist Church in this resolution. After some discussion on this a motion was made by Jim Thevenet to end discussion. This motion was seconded by Walter Mitchell. At this point the Town Attorney Michael Carey explained that this vote would end discussion and there would no longer be an opportunity to amend this resolution only to vote on it as is and that a 2/3 vote would be required. Jim Thevenet rescinded his motion to close discussion, there were no objections and discussion was continued. Chris Chabot made a motion to amending the resolution by striking the words "either or both" from the fifth line, changing

the word “properties” to “property” in the sixth line, and striking the words “and at 2 Church Street, Voluntown, Connecticut (the “Old Methodist Church”)” from the seventh and eighth lines. The motion was seconded by Rachel Ricard, and opened for discussion. There was discussion on both the merits of keeping the resolution as is and on the amended changes. A motion was made to close discussion by Jim Thevenet, but no second was heard before discussion continued. Discussion continued with a question about the forming of the Committee and citizens in favor of leaving the Resolution as originally written. A motion to close discussion was made by Jennifer Panko and seconded by Louie Gardella. All were in favor. The Town Attorney Michael Carey read the resolution in full as it would read if the amendment passed. A motion was made by Joe Miller to vote with paper ballots and seconded by Rachel Ricard. All were in favor.

The votes were counted by Julie Zelinsky and Pamela Theroux.

YES 56                      No 43

The amendment to the resolution passes.

The amended resolution will read:

**THE TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN, CONNECTICUT HEREBY RESOLVES that:**

The First Selectman, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 7-147q(a), is hereby authorized to appoint a Historic Properties Study Committee, consisting of five regular and three alternate members, to serve at his pleasure, for the sole purpose of making an investigation and submitting a report, in the manner provided by Connecticut General Statutes sub-sections 7-147q(b) and (c), as to whether ~~either or both of the~~ *properties property* located at 531 Ekonk Hill Rd, Voluntown, Connecticut (the “Wylie School House”) ~~and at 2 Church Street, Voluntown, Connecticut (the “Old Methodist Church”)~~ only, and no other property(ies) in the Town of Voluntown, Connecticut, should be designated as a historic property(ies).

The new resolution was read by Town Attorney Michael Carey. A motion to close discussion was made by Peter Trahan and seconded by Adam Cook. All were in favor. A motion was made by Jennifer Panko to vote with paper ballots and seconded by Rachel Ricard. All were in favor.

The votes were counted by Julie Zelinsky and Pamela Theroux.

YES 44                      NO 49

The resolution fails.

A motion to adjourn was made by Walter Mitchell and seconded by David Blanchette. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Attest:

Pamela E. Theroux, Town Clerk