

Town of Lincoln
Special Selectboard Meeting
July 13, 2021

Meeting Minutes [Draft]

SB Member Present: Bill Finger (BF), Bay Johnson (BJ), Will Sipse (WS), Paul Forlenza (PF), Oakley Smith (OS)

Staff Present: Ann Kensek (AK), SB Assistant, Bookkeeper, and Interim Zoning Administrator (ZA); Sally Ober (SO), Town Clerk; Christine Birong-Smith (CBS), SB Minutes Taker

Citizens Present: Barry Olson (BO), Andrew Furtsch (AF), Tory Riley (TR), Erin Warnock (EW), Mary Lou Harding (MLH), Michael Harding (MH), Michael Fisher (MF), Su White (SW), and up to 23 online attendees

Meeting called to order by SB chair BF at 6:34pm

Adjustments to meeting:

No adjustments made

Motion BF motion, 2nd PF to approve meeting agenda as presented

Passed 5/0/0

Review & accept petition received on 7/8/21 with 117 valid signatures

- BF reviewed with meeting attendees the function, purpose, and intent of the meeting as a means of establishing upcoming proceedings and to determine
- After consulting the town's attorney, it was determined that it is within the towns purview to put this question to voters
- SO, Town Clerk, received petition the week prior to this Special Meeting
- MF made public comment regarding perspectives on dynamics of issue
- SW commented that there is a website to disseminate information regarding petition

Motion PF, 2nd WS to accept the petition received with 117 valid signatures asking, "Shall the Town of Lincoln withdraw from the Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD)?"

Passed 5/0/0

Set date for Special Town Meeting vote: "Shall the Town of Lincoln withdraw from the Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD)? "

It will be a yes or no vote

Decide if vote will be by Australian Ballot

Motion PF, 2nd WS to hold voting by Australian Ballot

- General discussion regarding pros and cons of having Australian Ballot vs floor vote
 - Australian Ballot would allow for greater accessibility
 - Floor Vote would allow for greater dialogue en vivo to support informed voting
- **Motion** to call to question made by OS – no debate - **PASSED**

Main Motion Passed 5/0/0

Motion PF, 2nd WS motion to pose this question via mail in ballots

- SO provided clarification regarding the definition of who is defined as an “active voter”
- SO provided unofficial estimation of the costs to generate to mail in ballots
- SO believes she can do mail in ballot clerical work in house by printing ballots and hand counting

PF made friendly amendment to motion PF, 2nd by WS to change wording to “all active voters”

Passed 5/0/0

Review draft schedule for warning required posting and advertising.

- PDF of draft schedule for the titled, “SCHEDULE for Town Vote re: leaving MAUSD”
 - This draft schedule proposed timeline for both regular and special meetings, public information meetings, postings, and final town vote
 - General discussion of pros and cons of draft schedule occurred
 - PF pointed out that meeting times are consistently set for Tuesdays, so he suggested changing some dates to fall on other days of the week to have the first one on a Tuesday, second meeting on a Thursday, and the third meeting on a Monday to spread it out
 - Advertising methods and timeline, including posting in local papers, was included in draft schedule and reviewed
 - MF suggested the town find a way for vote by Australian Ballot to occur on the same day as informational meetings.
 - General discussion was generated between SB members and citizens present around having the Australian ballot vote on the same day as an informational meeting.

Set times, dates, places and formats for informational meetings.

- SO may have to set up Burnham Hall as a second polling location if the town were to move forward with having same day voting at the different public meetings via ballot drop box
 - SO will be in contact with the Secretary of State’s office regarding the logistics and validity behind doing this, and will seek clarification re: if it would be a BCA decision to allow for separate ballot locations

Remote access video cut off at 7:15pm, SB member BJ telephoned in for remainder of meeting

Citizen AF suggested clear motion on vote day

Motion PF, WS 2nd to approve the schedule that BF presented with modification that the second information meeting be on August 19th

Passed 5/0/0

Motion PF, WS 2nd Regarding the question of, "Shall the Town of Lincoln withdraw from the Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD)? ", town will hold the special meeting on the 23rd of August and vote by Australian Ballot held on the 24th of August

Passed 5/0/0

Suggestion for formats of meeting: general discussion regarding pros and cons to

- BF provided meeting format suggestion
 - SB will present implications, petition authors Save Community School will make a brief presentation, and then meeting will open to floor for Q&A and comment
 - After general discussion, it was determined that all town informational meetings be formatted to have all subjects related to this topic be open to review and discussion to increase topic information accessibility to the public
 - AF suggested that a video recording be made of each meeting to post for public view
 - EW and BJ will do outreach to try and find videographer

Sign warning for Special Town Meeting & Vote.

- Signing did not take place because changes have to be made to the language of the warning

Motion PF, 2nd OS to adjourn meeting

Passed 5/0/0

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:33pm

Respectfully submitted by Christine Birong-Smith