

**Town of Woodstock  
Live Virtual Town Meeting  
March 17, 2021  
Via Zoom**

**Selectmen:** R. Gil Rand, Charyl Reardon, Scott Rice

**Staff:** Judy Welch

**Town Counsel:** Laura Spector-Morgan

**Moderator:** D. Kenneth Chapman

**Budget Committee Members:** Kara Sellingham

**Public:** Hanna Kinne, Bill & Jackie Mellett, Ellie Harvey, Mike Welch, Steve Welch, Cheryl Bourassa, Pauline & Charlie Harrington, Kevin Foley, Bill Waterhouse, Betsy Scrafford, Paul Bankosky, Mike Donahue, Bonnie Ham, Suzan Ballmer, Mark Pitts, Barbara Avery, Ruth Ballmer, Kurt O'Connell, Janet & Dan Adams, Janelle Bard, Kevin Bell, Kelsee Beaudin, Carol Lowden, Frank & Peggy Aurelio

Charyl opened the Live Virtual Meeting at 5:03pm.

Charyl explained that the Moderator will read each article then ask the Board if they have any outstanding questions that need to be addressed. The Moderator will then question whether the Board have any amendments. If they are no amendments he will move on to the next article. There will be no additional questions or comments taken from the public. Charyl turned the meeting over to Ken.

Ken read each Warrant Article, asked the Board for outstanding questions that needed to be addressed, and then asked if the Board had any amendments.

**Article 3:**

Town Counsel, Laura Spector-Morgan, provided clarification on the language used in Article 3 and addressed Bill Waterhouse's questions from last week.

Gil provided the dimensions for the bay area of each shop. Gil noted that there is more than adequate space to fit all the equipment in the new shop.

**Article 5:**

*Charyl explained that the Community Center is owned by the Town of Lincoln. The Town has an Intergovernmental Agreement that mirrors the agreement of the Transfer Station. The Towns share 50% of the expenses and receive 50% of the revenues. Charyl pointed out that the Town has had a capital reserve established for large expenses at the transfer station for many years and the Board is looking to do the same thing with the Community Center.*

**Article 21:**

Charyl read the following email, that came in after the last meeting, aloud:

*Dear Selectmen,*

*Thank you for providing the option of online Town Meeting for us to discuss these warrant items before voting. I've read through the proposed noise ordinance carefully and I have a few questions that I'd appreciate if you could address at the next meeting.*

*Section II - Unnecessary Noise Prohibited*

*In the first sentence, second line, it states "... or simulate ...". Is the word that was intended here? Is the ordinance intending to prohibit pretending to make a noise??*

*Section III - Exempted Noise*

*B. "... a special permit therefore has been granted in advance by the Town of Woodstock..." This presumably refers to Section V. Application for Special Permit Exemptions. The phrase "related to hardship or otherwise" in the absence of any specific procedure for which such an exemption permit would be granted seems to place an undue burden on the Select Board for determining criteria to define "hardship or otherwise."*

*Have the petitioners provided any accompanying permit application form or procedure that protects against the potential for this clause being interpreted unevenly across a range of applicants?*

*Remainder of Section III - is there a reason why certain business activities are limited to between 7 am and 10 pm while others (e.g., Farming, gravel removal, shooting ranges) are not?*

*Section IV - Examples of Prohibited Noises*

*Examples include times between 10:30 pm and 6:00 am not referred to elsewhere in the document. Was the intention of the examples to use the same timeframe as in the listed exemptions above, i.e., 10 pm to 7 am as "quiet time"?*

*On what basis was the decibel rating for measurement of the noise level determined? (Please reference <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4685462/> - typical daily noise exposure for average adults is 79 db, with a range between 64 - 94 db. Also reference CDC and OSHA, which both set 85 db as the noise level considered to be the threshold requiring action to protect hearing over prolonged exposure).*

*The phrase "all noises shall be presumptively prohibited" seems unnecessarily restrictive, particularly at these decibel levels. Who does the measuring? How? With what instruments? Over what period of time? Again, the phrasing "reasonable and prudent standards" seems to place an undue burden on the Select Board to interpret the terms of this ordinance on a case-by-case basis.*

*I will stop here. I think these are sufficient examples to demonstrate that this proposed ordinance requires further clarification before it could be successfully applied.*

Charyl noted that the Board reached out to the petitioners to see if anyone would be available to speak to this email and to answer the questions asked at the last meeting.

Unfortunately, no one was available to speak at tonight's meeting. The petitioners asked that the following statement be read:

*"The noise ordinance is based on what is in place and what is being enforced in different municipalities throughout the state of New Hampshire. Over 40 registered voters have supported this warrant article to be on the ballot. The selectmen also support this noise ordinance."*

**Article 21 & 22:**

*Charyl motioned to NOT amend these articles. Charyl pointed out that the voters are given the ability to vote NO on these articles and feels that amending them at this stage of the game would be too confusing to the voters. Gil seconded this motion.*

**Article 24 & 25:**

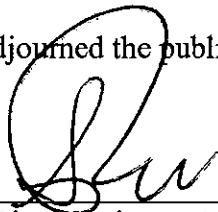
*Charyl reported that both these articles passed unanimously in Lincoln.*

Charyl thanked everyone for their flexibility, their conversations, and their understanding.

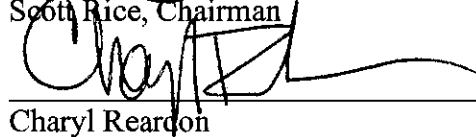
Ken read the births, deaths, and marriages.

Ken thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to get their vaccine.

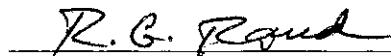
Ken adjourned the public hearing at 5:38 pm.



Scott Rice, Chairman



Charyl Reardon



R. Gil Rand

March 23, 2021

Date

