

October 24, 2016
Special Town Meeting Minutes

Town Moderator, Stephen Doherty, called the session of 2016 Special Town Meeting to order on October 24, 2016 at 7:30p.m. at the Town Hall Auditorium, 298 Central Street, Saugus, MA with 36 members, plus the moderator present. A quorum is met.

Stacey Billingsly from Precinct 1 and Peter Rossetti, Jr. from Precinct 2 were appointed and sworn in as tellers at 7:31 p.m.

Moderator Doherty led the meeting in the salute to the flag. Moderator Doherty asked for a Moment of Silence for our servicemen and women overseas. The Moderator mentioned the passing of TMM Mr. Robert Cox from Precinct 4 and introduced his replaced Ms. Maureen Whitcomb.

Town Clerk, Ellen Schena, called the roll.

Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct	Town Meeting Member name	Present/ Absent	Pct
ALLEN, P	P	3	ATTUBATO, J	A	6	BARTOLO, J.	P	6
BILLINGSLEY, S.	P	1	BRAZIS, K	P	5	BROWN, W.	P	6
CANTERBURY, M.	A	6	CICOLINI, J.	P	8	COBURN, J.	A	10
CONNORS, A.	A	3	COSTELLO, M.	P	10	COSTIN, J.B.	P	7
COTTAM, J.	A	9	DECAREAU, E.	A	8	DEVLIN, F.A.	P	1
DINARDO, A.	P	4	DIVIRGILIO, A.	A	10	DOHERTY, S.	P	4
FALASCA, T.	P	2	FINN, C.	P	9	FOWLER, J.	P	8
GOLDSTEIN, J	A	6	GOODWIN, P.	P	5	GROARK, L.	A	5
HORLICK, S.	A	8	JONES, C.	P	1	KELLY, D.	A	9
LEUCI, W.	P	4	LOPRESTI, A.	A	8	MCCABE, K.	P	2
MCCARTHY, S.	A	7	MCLAUGHLIN, P.	P	4	MCTAGUE, J.	P	9
MORESCHI, C.	P	2	MURPHY, S.	P	3	PAOLINI, M.	P	7
POLITANO, K.	P	7	PRIZIO, P	P	7	RING, D.	P	10
RODENHISER, J.	P	1	ROSSETTI, P.	P	2	SERINO, M.	P	10
SPENCER, B.	P	5	STEWART, W.	P	3	SULLIVAN, P.	P	9
SWEEZEY, S.	P	2	THOMPSON, R.	P	3	WALLACE, R.	P	5
WHITCOMB, M.	P	4	WITTEN, R.	P	1			

37 Members present, a quorum is met.

At 7:35 p.m. Acceptance of Minutes from the last ATM was moved at 7:35 p.m.

Seconded at 7:35 p.m.

Unanimous acceptance from Town Meeting Members.
No reports from Sub-committees
No old business before Town meeting

As a courtesy to Town Meeting, Mr. Allen moves Article 1 to Amend Section 507.7 of the Town of Saugus By-Laws to the floor;

Seconded at 7:37 p.m.

Article as written:

Article 1. To see if the Town will amend section 507.7 of the Town of Saugus By-Laws to include: ***Dogs shall be Prohibited in public building. Exception: Guide, Hearing and Other Service Dogs or Law Enforcement Dogs – These animals may be allowed in town buildings or on town grounds with proof of current rabies vaccinations.***

Full Text as amended:

507.7 Nuisances
No owner shall fail to exercise proper care and control of his animals to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance. Excessive or untimely barking, molesting passerby, chasing vehicles, habitually attacking people or other domestic animals, trespassing upon school grounds, or trespassing upon private property in such manner as to damage property, shall be deemed a nuisance.

Certain acts prohibited in Public Parks, Playgrounds, Schoolyards and Public Recreation Areas, except at Prankers Pond where leashed dogs and horseback riding will be permitted. No person shall permit dogs or other such animals to enter these

areas, nor shall any person willfully ride a horse or other such animal in these areas unless designated to do so by proper authority.

Dogs shall be prohibited in public buildings.

Exception: Guide, Hearing and Other Service Dogs or Law Enforcement Dogs – These animals may be allowed in town buildings or on town grounds with proof of current rabies vaccinations.

Mr. Paul Allen submitted an Amendment to the Article which should read; “The Town of Saugus Animal Control Officer will be exempt from this By-Law as necessary to hold dogs to be kept in his/her custody in performance of their duties.”

Seconded at 7:39 p.m.

No Discussion on the Amendment.

Amendment passed, by unanimous voice vote at 7:40p.m.

Mr. Paul Allen, Precinct 3 speaks at 7:40 p.m. regarding the article on how he was approached by a Saugus resident in his district concerning the matter. He asked the moderator for the resident Ms Lea. Geron to address Town meeting.

Speaking at 7:41 p.m. Ms. Lea Geron, 25 Springdale Avenue, thanks the BOS, Paul Allen and the citizens of Saugus. She states on February 4, 2016 her husband brought their daughter to the Clerk’s Office to register to vote. She was 18 months old. Upon entering the clerk’s office she was attacked and was unprovoked.

Mr. Al DiNardo interrupts and states Point of Order at 7:42 p.m. that we should be speaking about the wording in the Article only. He is told that Ms. Geron is allowed to speak on this Article.

Ms. Geron continues that her daughter was hurt by a dog in the office and brought to Children’s Hospital. She received 10 stitches. She is terrified of dogs and has day and night terrors. She asks Town Meeting Members to vote with their hearts and make Town hall a safe place. As of right now there is no rule to prohibit dogs from Town Hall.

Mr. Paul Allan, precinct 3 at 7:44 p.m. asks for a Roll Call Vote.

At 7:45 p.m. Mr. J. Brian Costin from Precinct 7 speaks in support of the Article but he wants to know why we use the word “dogs” and not “pets”. He wants to add “cats”.

At 7:47 p.m. Mr. Darren Ring, Precinct 10 agrees with the previous TMM to amend the wording to “Pets”.

Amend Article 1 to delete the word “dogs” to replace with “pets”.

Seconded at 7:48 p.m.

Ms. Pam Goodwin, Precinct 5 speaks at 7:48 p.m. asking to change to “animals” in keeping with the original verbiage in keeping with the previous speaker’s ideas with all animals.

The Moderator now changes the verbiage from “dogs” to “pets” to “animals”.

Seconded at 7:49 p.m.

Mr. Darren Ring, Precinct 10 speaks at 7:49pm is there any other word to include reptiles...is there something that covers everything?

Town Counsel, John Vasapolli says that animals non-human. It should cover it.

Ms. Stacey Billingsley, Precinct 1 at 7:50 p.m. inquires about what to do at the Saugus Library when “Curious Creatures” comes to town? What about elementary schools doing the same thing?

Ms. Jean Bartolo, Precinct 6 states the Library has signs outside stating no dogs allowed as well as the cemetery.

Ms. F. Ann Devlin, Precinct 1 at 7:52 p.m. has the same concerns as the previous speaker. Is there a waiver we can include before we get rid of everything?

Mr. Steve Sweezey, Precinct 2 at 7:53 p.m. speaks that about in the proposal there is a section about “Proper Authority” should be moved up in the Amendment it would give permission to do these types of shows.

Mr. Darren Ring, Precinct 10 at 7:54 p.m. inquires who’s the proper authority and agrees with the previous speaker.

Moderator Steve Doherty suggests his interpretation in the Public Buildings would be the Town Manager or the BOS and in Schools it would be the School Committee.

Town Counsel, John Vasapolli suggests to Mr. Sweezey who is the proper authority in the Amendment.

Mr. Christopher Finn, Precinct 9 at 7:55p.m. would like to add language “programs designed for educational purposes” in as an Amendment.

Mr. Darren Ring, Precinct 10 asks about the animals at Christmas time? Does this fall under educational purposes?

Amend Article 1 to add “except for Educational Programs”.

Seconded at 8:01 p.m.

Amendment passed, by unanimous voice vote at 8:04p.m.

Amend Article 1 to add “Town Manager and Designee”

Seconded at 8:01 p.m.

Amendment passed, by unanimous voice vote at 8:04p.m.

Moderator Steve Doherty reads the new Article with all Amendments.

Ms. F. Ann Devlin, Precinct 1 at 8:06 p.m. asks one further clarification will dogs be banned on the Town Hall Benches outside the building. The Moderator answers “YES” the way the original by-law is worded.

Mr. Ronald Wallace, Precinct 5 at 8:08 p.m. inquires about the Rail Trail? People walk their dogs on the Rail Trail? Is this town property? Founder’s day? People bring pets to Founders day?

Town Counsel, John Vasapolli at 8:08 p.m. answers that the Rail Trail is an easement. The town doesn’t own the trails. Since it is an issue he suggests that Town Meeting include/exclude the Rail Trails and should consider the verbiage “Celebrations” to the Article.

Ms. Patricia Prizio, Precinct 7 at 8:10 p.m. thought Town Meeting were here to vote on the little section and why are they doing anything more.

Mr. J. Brian Costin, Precinct 7 at 8:11 p.m. agrees to vote on the verbiage and asks Town Counsel if Town Meeting is exceeding the scope of the Amendment?

Town Counsel, John Vasapolli at 8:12 p.m. answers that the discussions are within the scope of the Article.

Mr. Steve Sweezey, Precinct 2 at 8:13 p.m. submits new verbiage adding Celebrations and Rail Trail to the Amendment.

Moderator Steve Doherty at 8:14 p.m. states that since the Amendment is being re-drafted he wants to take this moment to speak about a letter addressed to Town Meeting Members for a Saugus student, Francesco Salzillo. This letter will not be voted on but will be passed to the BOS for consideration for the next warrant (STM). He reads the letter:

“Dear Town Meeting members of Saugus. My name is Francesco Salzillo, I’m an 8th grade student at the Belmonte Saugus Middle School and live at 21 Lenox Ave. I would like to propose my idea of having a Skate Park for all ages in Saugus. I would like this to happen for multiple reasons. Lots of kids in Saugus love to skateboard and use BMX Bikes as well as do tricks with them. It would also be nice if they could get out of the house and do something else. After all, many of the places in Saugus center don’t allow loitering, and this would be a great place for kids, not only to skate, but hang out after school as well. I, myself, love to skateboard and am trying to get better at it. With that being said it would be much appreciated if you could take this note into consideration and try to find money to have a Skate park built. Please try to reply to this if you could.”

Sincerely,
Francesco Salzillo.

Moderator Doherty states he appropriate thing to do is to read to TMM then pass to the BOS for possibility on the next Warrant.

Amend Article 1 to add

Seconded at 8:17 p.m.

Amendment passed, by unanimous voice vote at 8:17p.m.

Any further discussion. NONE

Moderator Steve Doherty reads the Article with all new Amendments at 8:19 am.

Article as voted:

507.7 Nuisances

No owner shall fail to exercise proper care and control of his animals to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance. Excessive or untimely barking, molesting passerby, chasing vehicles, habitually attacking people or other domestic animals, trespassing upon school grounds, or trespassing upon private property in such manner as to damage property, shall be deemed a nuisance.

Certain acts prohibited in Public Parks, Playgrounds, Schoolyards and Public Recreation Areas; excluding the Rail Trail and at Town Celebrations, except at Prankers Pond where leashed dogs and horseback riding will be permitted. No person shall permit pets or other such animals to enter these areas, nor shall any person willfully ride a horse or other such animal in these areas unless designated to do so by proper authority, by Town Manager or his Designee.

Except for Educational Purposes animals shall be prohibited in public buildings.

Exception: Guide, Hearing and Other Service Dogs or Law Enforcement Dogs – These animals may be allowed in town buildings or on town grounds with proof of current rabies vaccinations. The Town of Saugus Animal Control Officer will be exempt from this By-Law as necessary to hold dogs to be kept in his/her custody in the performance of their duties.

Town Clerk, Ellen Schena, called the roll call Vote:

Town Meeting Member name	Vote	Town Meeting Member name	Vote	Town Meeting Member name	Vote
ALLEN, P	Y	ATTUBATO, J	A	BARTOLO, J.	Y
BILLINGSLEY, S.	Y	BRAZIS, K	Y	BROWN, W.	Y
CANTERBURY, M.	A	CICOLINI, J.	Y	COBURN, J.	A
CONNORS, A.	A	COSTELLO, M.	Y	COSTIN, J.B.	Y
COTTAM, J.	A	DECAREAU, E.	A	DEVLIN, F.A.	Y
DINARDO, A.	Y	DIVIRGILIO, A.	A	DOHERTY, S.	
FALASCA, T.	Y	FINN, C.	Y	FOWLER, J.	Y
GOODWIN, P.	A	GOLDSTEIN, J.	Y	GROARK, L.	A
HORLICK, S.	A	JONES, C.	Y	KELLY, D.	A
LEUCI, W.	Y	LOPRESTI, A.	A	MCCABE, K.	Y
MCCARTHY, S.	A	MCLAUGHLIN, P.	Y	MCTAGUE, J.	Y
MORESCHI, C.	Y	MURPHY, S.	Y	PAOLINI, M.	Y
POLITANO, K.	Y	PRIZIO, P	Y	RING, D.	Y
RODENHISER, J.	Y	ROSSETTI, P.	Y	SERINO, M.	Y
SPENCER, B.	Y	STEWART, W.	Y	SULLIVAN, P.	Y
SWEEZEY, S.	Y	THOMPSON, R.	Y	WALLACE, R.	Y
WHITCOMB, M.	Y	WITTEN, R.	Y		

Yea: 36
Nay: 0

Unanimous Roll Call Vote in favor of the Article.

Moderator moves to adjourn the October 24, 2016 Special Town Meeting sine die.

Seconded at 8:22p.m.

Unanimous voice vote adjourn sine die.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Joyce Schena
Town Clerk