

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
DECEMBER 11, 2006**

The December 11, 2006 Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Moderator Robert Gosselin. As of 7:07 PM there were 139 voters in attendance which satisfied the quorum requirement of 133 voters. The Chair determined that the warrant was duly posted. Motion was moved and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant. Frank Belitsky led the auditorium in the Pledge of Allegiance. As of 7:10 pm there were 225 voters in attendance. Selectman George 'Fran' Dillon introduced Arthur 'Badge' Blackett, Senior Project Manager with the Trust for Public Land. Mr. Blackett made a presentation. *As of 7:30 pm there were 283 voters in attendance.*

**ARTICLE 1:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, for general municipal purposes, the fee in the parcel of land shown as "Parcel B" on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land, The Marion D. Campbell Trust, Farmers Row, Groton, Massachusetts," dated October 17, 2006, prepared by Beals Associates, Inc. , including the fee in the parcel shown as Parcel 7A which will be combined with Parcel B to form one parcel, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out this acquisition.

Selectman Joshua Degen pointed out the wording is slightly different from the warrant that was mailed to households. The difference in the wording including the fee in the parcel shown as Parcel 7A which will be combined with Parcel B to form one parcel. The Planning Board has recently approved a plan which required a small parcel .04 acres of land which is known as parcel 7A which was carved off parcel 7 to be added to parcel b which was in the original wording. Fifty feet of land were set aside for a road for the future should it be required.

Finance Committee and Board of Health voted to support

**Article 1 carried by unanimous vote**

**ARTICLE 2:**

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer the care, custody, maintenance and control of all or a portion of the land currently held as the Town Forest and described in Article 2 of the warrant for the December 11, 2006 Special Town meeting to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of granting or consenting to an eminent domain taking of a conservation restriction to be held by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Department of Fish and Game, pursuant to provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 184, Section 31-34, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant or consent to an eminent domain taking of the same, upon such terms and conditions it deems appropriate, so that said land may be held jointly for forest purposes and purposes consistent with said conservation restriction ; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Massachusetts General Court to approve the change in custody and the change in use of said land for the purpose stated herein, pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Amendments of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all as described in further detail in said warrant Article 2.

Selectman Dillon read comments from Selectman Peter Cunningham who couldn't be at the Special Town Meeting. Selectman Cunningham stated that as the Board of Selectmen's Representative to the Surrenden Farm Land Use Committee he had been very involved in the deliberations which brought this project to this meeting. This restriction should be viewed as an asset to our Town Forest. Passage of this article represents the final step in realizing the vision endorsed by the April 24, 2006 Annual Town Meeting in protecting Surrenden Farms. Selectman Cunningham asked for support on this article.

Brooks Lyman wanted to know if hunting was going to be allowed on this land. Selectman Dillon responded that hunting would be allowed. James McMath commented that the Boys Scouts have a parcel of land adjacent to this property; however access is through the town forest and asked if there would be additional restrictions to the property. Gordon Newell from the West Groton Water District responded that the water district does abut the land from the Boy Scouts property. Arrangements are being made to grant them an access over the Water District's permanent easement to West Main Street so that they would not need the easement through the Forest.

**Article 2 carried by a 2/3 majority, one vote dissenting.**

**The Chair entertained a motion to dissolve the December 11, 2006 Special Town Meeting. The motion was moved. The meeting dissolved at 7:44pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Onorina Z. Maloney  
Town Clerk**