

Arlington 2023 Annual Town Meeting — Amendment 1

ARTICLE NO. 12

Dated: 5/4/2023

I, Greg Dennis, do hereby submit the following amendment to the Melofchik substitute motion under Article 12.

If the Pagliasotti amendment is adopted by Town Meeting, this amendment applies the changes specified below; otherwise, this amendment applies no changes.

In section A.a replace “eight (8)” with “seven (7)” such that it reads as follows:

The Committee shall consist of ~~eight (8)~~ seven (7) voting members as follows:

In section A.a.ii.4, replace “Two (2) residents of Arlington each of whom shall have demonstrated experience working with local environmental advocacy or non-profit organizations, to be appointed by the Town Moderator” with “One (1) resident of Arlington, neutral on the issue of artificial turf, to serve as chair of the committee and to be appointed by the Town Moderator” such that it reads as follows:

~~A.a.ii.4. Two (2) residents of Arlington each of whom shall have demonstrated experience working with local environmental advocacy or non-profit organizations, to be appointed by the Town Moderator~~
A.a.ii.4. One (1) resident of Arlington, neutral on the issue of artificial turf, to serve as chair of the committee and to be appointed by the Town Moderator.

Further, in section A.a.iv., replace “designee of the Conservation Commission” with “chair,” and strike “one or more chairs, whose responsibility shall be to convene and preside over all future meetings. The Committee shall also elect” such that A.a.iv. reads as follows:

A.a.iv. Organization and First Meeting

The initial meeting of the Study Committee shall be convened by the ~~designee of the Conservation Commission~~ chair, and the first order of business shall be the self organization of the Study Committee through the election of ~~one or more chairs, whose responsibility shall be to convene and preside over all future meetings. The Committee shall also elect~~ a clerk, whose duties shall include the proper posting of meeting agendas and minutes. The Study Committee shall designate any other officer as it sees fit.

Commentary

This amendment builds on the Pagliasotti amendment, which gives every committee member voting privileges. The Pagliasotti amendment is necessary for the committee to be even-handed and inclusive of all viewpoints and expertise. However, allowing every member to vote leaves the committee with an even number of members. Committees ideally have an odd number to avoid deadlocked tie votes and to more easily reach quorum. As a remedy, I have reduced the Town Moderator appointees from two to one. I have also specified that the Moderator appointee serve as chair, to avoid a contentious chair election that would start the committee off on the wrong foot.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Greg Dennis
Greg Dennis, Precinct 1

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____