

Reflections on Town Meeting by John Scruton, Town Administrator

The voters at Town Meeting 2012 have provided important insights into the direction they wish this community to proceed. At Town Meeting voters selected the board members and officers who will help operate the town and school and also voted on budgets and twenty-five other articles. Every incumbent who ran was reelected and all but a reserve fund for heavy highway equipment passed. There was a larger than normal turnout for Town election with participation by over 25% of the registered voters. We recognize those who worked to help get the vote out.

There was clear support for the vision which the Planning Board has articulated with the passage of all ten of their proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. The voters also supported the article the Planning Board recommended to repeal and reenact a building code that is up to date and consistent with the process, standards, and requirements of the State Building Code.

The voters supported the vision, mission, values, objectives and goals of the current Board of Selectmen with reelection of the two incumbents, passage of the budget and passage of all but one of the proposed warrant articles. The Selectmen's major initiative on road maintenance passed in all three places and will help the Board implement the Dubois and King report for improvements. Funds were also set aside for future capital expenditures for fire truck replacement, Swains dam repairs, library technology, cemetery expansion, fire-rescue equipment and town buildings. The voters also entrusted the Selectmen with the selection of the Treasurer starting in 2013.

The voters supported the School Board's priorities with passage of new multiyear collective bargaining agreements for both the teachers and paraprofessionals.

With this direction, the government of the Town of Barrington and the School system move forward to implement this vision with the voters support.