

Submitted by Jo Anne Preston, TMM Precinct 5

Letter on Article 5 substitute motion.

I would like to respond to the substitute motion under Article Five and ask Town Meeting member to vote against it, allowing us to vote on the main motion.

The writer argues that Article Five requires the town to take a position on an extremely complex and painful conflict.

I could not disagree more. While the conflict may be complex and painful, the resolution asks directly for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Palestine and Israel and the release of all hostages. It goes on to request humanitarian aid and a diplomatic solution.

While the increasing loss of human life is painful, nothing about this resolution is too complex for us to understand and vote on directly. This substitute motion will prevent Town Meeting from doing so.

The writer goes on to assert that the town's role is to help residents rise above their divisions and to nurture an environment of kindness, understanding, and mutual respect. Silencing conflicting opinions does nothing to promote mutual respect.

As someone who attends many town committee meetings, I see the role of the town differently. It is at the meetings that residents bring their conflicting views and begin to listen to each other. The town's role is to furnish an arena where conflicts can be expressed and we all move forward to greater understandings with a tolerance of difference.

I ask that Town Meeting members vote down the substitute motion so that Town Meeting members can vote directly on the resolution for an immediate ceasefire, release of all hostages, humanitarian aid, and a diplomatic solution.

Jo Anne Preston
Precinct 5