



**Town Meeting Procedures Committee
DRAFT Minutes UNOFFICIAL NOT VOTED**

Date: *March 4, 2019*

Time: *7:30 p.m.*

Location: *Town Hall Annex*

Attendance: Moderator - John D. Leone
Asst. Mod.- James O'Connor
1st TMM – John L. Worden III
2nd TMM - Eric Helmuth
3rd TMM - Adam Auster, absent

Guest - Michael Brown, Article 27 sponsor

1. Article 27, BYLAW AMENDMENTS/ TOWN MEETING SPEAKING TIMES.

Mr. Brown presented his rationale for bringing this Article, he believed that presentations could be made in a shorter time frame and he was interested in brevity of presentation. A discussion was held by the Committee. Mr. Worden believed that 7 minutes is adequate as time limits have already been reduced from 15 minutes and then further reduced to 10 minutes and are now 7 minutes for the first trip to the microphone. He further believed that Town Meeting Members giving a presentation should not be limited as that is the business for which we are there. Mr. Helmuth posited that this would also affect all presenters, including all town Committees and Boards. Mr. Leone, stated that by his recollection, that not that many people actually take the entire 7 minutes as it is and those that do, in general have a valid presentation or point to make.

Mr. O'Connor made a motion that the TMPC present the Main Motion under this Article as a motion for No Action. The Motion was seconded. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the Motion for a Main Motion of No Action.

Mr. Brown was thanked for his time and thoughts on the matter. Mr. Leone offered to assist him if he wished to draft a Substitute motion.

2. New Business, Mr. Worden wished to explore the idea of giving the Moderator authority to extend time limits as opposed to having the Meeting take a Vote to extend. He noted that in general the Meeting always grants additional time. The Committee members are going to keep track of the occurrence of extensions and speaking times at the upcoming meeting with the idea of following up on this issue at our next meeting.

3. The electronic Voting system was discussed..the committee is pleased with the performance and the Administrator assigned to town meeting. The Moderator is to follow up with Town Manager to ensure that the EV system will be in place this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Next meeting is scheduled for *June following Town Meeting.*