

**TOWN OF SPENCER
MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

December 8, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Moderator, Peter Adams.

Warrant was posted in accordance with the law.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Moderator.

A “thank you” was extended to Richard Lapierre for volunteering his time and equipment for the sound system.

Moderator announced that there was a vacancy on the Personnel Board.

Moderator introduced Town Clerk, Board of Selectmen Members present, Town Administrator, Administrator’s Asst., and Town Counsel.

Mary Braney, Chairman of the Finance Committee introduced committee members present.

Moderator explained Town Meeting Procedures.

Donald Berthiaume, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and Selectman, Gary Woodbury, inducted Carol and Robert McPherson into Leadership Hall, in honor of their years of service to the Town. A plaque and picture were hung.

Presentations were done by:

Michelle Buck , Town Planner

Colin Novick, Greater Worcester Land Trust

Virginia Scarlet, Common Ground Land Trust

Dana Reed, Conservation Commission

The following article was acted upon:

ARTICLE 1

The Finance Committee unanimously recommended approval of this article as written, pending the award of a \$500,000 LAND Grant.

Article 1: Majority voted (Declared Vote by Moderator) that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to purchase, take by eminent domain, or otherwise acquire, for purposes of conservation, agricultural preservation, passive recreation or a combination thereof, interests, including but not limited to fee interest, restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions under Chapter 20, Section 23 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or easements, as the Board of Selectmen deems reasonable and appropriate, in all or any part of a parcel of property known as the Sibley-Warner Farm on East Main and Greenville Streets and comprising Assessors Lots R26-1, R34-8, and R34-9; to appropriate and borrow, in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other general or special law, \$1,200,000.00 for the payment of the costs of acquiring said interests and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Conservation Commission on behalf of the Town to seek and accept federal and state grants, including but not limited to the

Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant under Chapter 132A, Section 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and/or the Landscape Partnership grant, subject to the federal and state laws and regulations applicable to such acceptance; such interests as are acquired by the Town pursuant to this vote shall be under the care and control of the Conservation Commission established under Chapter 40, Section 8C of the Massachusetts General Laws and shall expressly provide for public access for passive recreational activities in accordance with the paragraph titled "Public access" on the second page of the document entitled "Protection of the Sibley and Warner Farms, Background for Town Meeting, December 8, 2011"; provided, however, that the Town shall not expend, net of reimbursements due from grant contracts awarded, a sum greater than \$700,000.00; and provided further, however, that this appropriation and debt authorization is contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion referendum under Chapter 59, Section 21C(k) of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Declared Vote By Moderator: 146 In Favor and 9 Opposed.

Motion to dissolve meeting.

Majority voted at 7:58PM to dissolve this meeting.

162 Registered Voters attended this meeting.

Jean M. Mulhall, Town Clerk