

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
**Town of Dennis**  
**October 28, 2014**

Robert C. Chamberlain, Moderator, called the Annual Town Meeting held at the Nathaniel H. Wixon Innovation School to order at 7:04 p.m. He declared a quorum present and noted that the Warrant had been posted by George Sawyer, Constable. Tellers were Gladys Kearney, Robert Duffy, Micheal Patterson, Jacquelyn Souza and Paul Covell, Head Teller.

Moderator Chamberlain asked the assembly to kindly rise and salute the flag.

On motion of Finance Committee Chairman James Plath, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to waive the formal reading of the Warrant.

**Captain Bernard O'Neil Flag Dedication, presented by Diane Rochell**

"Mr. Moderator, thank you for allowing me to make this dedication. My name is Diane Rochelle, Dennis Port and I chair the Dennis Historical Commission. I am pleased to present to the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the residents of Dennis our newly conserved and framed 13 star American flag. We are extremely grateful to the Community Preservation Committee which recommended our request of \$45,000 to undertake this restoration and to the town residents who approved the grant last fall. Known as an Ensign and flown off the quarterdeck of clipper ships when entering foreign ports, this 10' by 15' testament to our freedom and our country had a new adventure this year and required a very large crew to make a successful journey. Captain Bernard O'Neil's flag was removed in March and taken to Museum Textile Services, Andover where it was cleaned and stabilized by owner/conservator Camille Breeze. A special frame and hanging system was designed and fabricated by Small Corp Inc., Greenfield under the supervision of conservator Barrett Keating, owner of Antique Furniture Conservation & Restoration in Falmouth. The flag returned to Wixon School in July where it was covered by fine netting and hand stitched to a padded backing on this very stage. It took 4 days to assemble the frame which was hung by Artex Inc., Somerville with the help of two hydraulic lifts. We received tremendous support from Wixon Principal Emily Mezzetti, school staff and especially DY Regional School District Facilities Manager Sandra Cashen and Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools. Our thanks reach out to everyone who contributed to this marvelous success. The flag was given to the Town of Dennis 38 years ago for the Bicentennial of 1976 by the great grand daughters of Captain O'Neil and has been hanging in this auditorium since then. Tonight the Captain's great, great grandson, Peter Cipkowski, joins us in our dedication along with his aunt Josephine O'Neil Clarke and other family members. Peter will offer a lecture on the flag's history on February 22, 2015 at the West Dennis Library. You will hear more about that next year. May I introduce Peter Cipkowski.

Thank you Diane, I am here tonight with some cousins, a nephew, an uncle and most especially my Aunti Jo – Josephine O'Neil Clarke – who with her sisters Ruth O'Neil Cipkowski and Maryann O'Neil Savery donated this remarkable c1861 flag after the deaths of their parents, Ira Bernard and Ruth O'Neil of W. Dennis. Stand up and take a bow, Aunti Jo. They discovered this flag in an old trunk that was preserved in the Captain's big house on Fisk Street where we all grew up. There were also some other artifacts that are still in the family: shipping logs, journals, photos, letters & receipts. They tell the story of W. Dennis in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the maritime adventures of Captain O'Neil as he traveled up & down the N. American coast from Sydney, Nova Scotia (where he encountered his future daughter in law Mary Ann McInnis) to the ports of New Orleans and Galveston. The Captain operated several ships, often sailing to more distant global ports around the Cape of Good Hope to cross the Indian Sea and

through the Straights of Magellan to the East Indies. This very flag flew from his vessel when it entered a foreign port. His ships transported merchandise usually from port of Boston. One receipt shows the Civil War era shipment of granite from Rockport, Maine, that was delivered to the U. S. Capitol building, still under construction. Captain O'Neil and many other family members lie in West Dennis Cemetery. There's much more to say about Captain O'Neil and his family, but let me save that for another time and simply say thank you. Thanks to Diane and the Dennis Historical Commission for fighting the fight for the money to preserve this important flag, thanks to the Town of Dennis for supporting the effort and most importantly thanks to my mother and her sisters for understanding that this flag belonged to the people of Dennis.

Thank you, Peter. Our flag is home. The Dennis Historical Commission appreciates your continued support. We are very proud of this remarkable project.”

**ARTICLE 1:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Member Alan Tuttle, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to dedicate for bike path purposes a portion of the Town-owned land located at Main Street, Dennis, described in the deed to the Town recorded with the Barnstable Registry of Deeds in Book 1653, Page 42, containing approximately 37,855 square feet and shown as “BPE” on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Dennis, Massachusetts, Prepared for: The Town of Dennis, prepared by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.” dated September 3, 2014, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all related actions necessary or appropriate to effect this dedication.

**ARTICLE 2:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Member Alan Tuttle, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to accept as a public town way the layout of Fisk Street in the Village of West Dennis from Route 28 South to Loring Avenue as shown on the plan hereinafter referred to, as reported at a public hearing on September 9, 2014, and recommended and laid out, altered and relocated by the Board of Selectmen, and filed with the Town Clerk, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain on behalf of the Town, an easement to use, for all purposes for which public ways are so laid out, as shown on a plan entitled: “Fisk Street West Dennis, Massachusetts As Laid Out by the Board of Selectmen, Date: September 2, 2014, prepared by Demarest Land Surveying Sheets 1 thru 3”, and further, to see if the Town will transfer \$8,301.00 from Free Cash ( **2/3rds vote** ) for this purpose and any expenses related thereto, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all related actions necessary or appropriate to effect this acquisition.

**ARTICLE 3:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Member Wayne Bergeron, duly seconded, it was voted 213 yes to 8 no to lease for a term of no more than 99 years, such portion of the premises located on Hokum Rock Road, being the northerly portion of the property shown on Assessor's Map 311, Parcel 3 containing approximately 4.9 acres, as shown on the map entitled “Hokum Rock Road Parcel” and filed with the Town Clerk's Office for the purpose of affordable housing and other support facilities for autistic adults and those with similar conditions, to be located on such portion of the property outside the water district zone of contribution, be limited to no more than 16 bedrooms with septic installations placed on the far northerly portion of the property toward Hokum Rock Road and on such other terms and conditions, and for such consideration, which may be nominal consideration, as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept on behalf of the Town, an affordable housing restriction, enforceable in compliance with General Laws Chapter 184.

**ARTICLE 4:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Chairman Paul McCormick, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to transfer \$700,000.00 from free cash to replenish the Capital Improvement Fund for the repairs to the Ezra Baker School Roof.

**ARTICLE 5:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Chairman Paul McCormick, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to indefinitely postpone the article.

To see if the Town will vote to transfer funds from Art.10 (Baker School Roof Permanent Repairs) of the May 6, 2014 Annual Town Meeting to make repairs and renovations to the lower level classrooms at the Ezra H. Baker School, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 6:** On motion of Community Preservation Committee Member Dorria DiManno, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to transfer an additional \$5,000 from undesignated CPA funds for Community Preservation Committee's annual expenses.

**ARTICLE 7:** On motion of Community Preservation Committee Member Christopher Foley, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted, pursuant to the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer \$61,225 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Reserves Fund as a grant to the Dennis Historical Society, Inc. pursuant to a grant agreement between the Board of Selectmen and the Dennis Historical Society, Inc. to fund the continuation of the Accessible Digital Archives Project, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said grant agreement with said Dennis Historical Society, upon such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, which agreement shall include, but not be limited to, requirements that the Historical Society make such digitally archived materials available to the general public and, in the event that the Historical Society is unwilling or unable to continue hosting the public access to same, shall turn over to the Town such digitalized materials.

**ARTICLE 8:** On motion of Community Preservation Committee Member James Wick, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted, pursuant to the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer \$170,000 from the Community Preservation Open Space/Recreation Reserves Fund to grant to the Town of Dennis for the purpose of funding the Johnny Kelley Park Lighting Project

**ARTICLE 9:** On motion of Community Preservation Committee Member Frank Verny, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted, pursuant to the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer \$25,000 from the Community Preservation Open Space/Recreation Reserves Fund as a grant to the Village Improvement Society of Dennis, Inc. (Ad Hoc Playground Committee) pursuant to a grant agreement between Village Improvement Society, Inc. and the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of funding playground renovations at the playground located at 7 Nobscussett Road, Dennis, MA, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said grant agreement with said Village Improvement Society, Inc., upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall deem appropriate.

**ARTICLE 10:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Member Sheryl McMahan, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to indefinitely postpone the article.

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer \$55,000 from the Community Affordable Housing Reserves Fund as a grant to the Dennis Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, pursuant to a grant agreement between the Dennis Municipal Affordable Housing Trust and the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of funding a rental assistance program, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said grant agreement with said Trust upon such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 11:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Member Sheryl McMahan, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to indefinitely postpone the article.

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer \$50,000 from the Community Preservation Affordable Housing Reserves Fund as a grant to the Dennis Affordable Housing Trust pursuant to a grant agreement between the Dennis Municipal Affordable Housing Trust and the Board of

Selectmen for the purpose of funding the Trust's General Fund, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said grant agreement with said Trust upon such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 12:** On motion of Board of Selectmen/ Member Sheryl McMahon, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted, pursuant to the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer \$21,611 from the Community Preservation Open Space/Recreation Reserves Fund as a grant to the Dennis Conservation Trust, pursuant to a grant agreement between the Dennis Conservation Trust and the Board of Selectmen for the purchase and installation of interactive conservation sites at various conservation lands in the Town, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said grant agreement with said Trust, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall deem appropriate.

**ARTICLE 13:** On motion of Community Preservation Committee Member Frank Dahlstrom, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted, pursuant to the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c.44B, to appropriate and transfer \$75,000 from the Community Preservation Open Space/Recreation Reserves Fund as a grant to the Dennis-Yarmouth School District, pursuant to a grant agreement between the Dennis-Yarmouth School District and the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of funding playground improvements at the Nathaniel H. Wixon Innovation School, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into said grant agreement with said District, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall deem appropriate.

**ARTICLE 14:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Member Wayne Bergeron, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to transfer \$7000.00 from free cash to fund the fuel assistance special article.

**ARTICLE 15:** On motion of Board of Selectmen Member John Terrio, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to indefinitely postpone the article.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the following prior year's unpaid bills, or take any other action relative thereto.

It was unanimously voted to adjourn (dissolve) the meeting at 7:51 p.m. on October 28, 2014.

A True Copy, Attest:

---

Theresa T. Bunce,  
Dennis Town Clerk