



Reflections on Ten Years on the Andover Select Board

Victoria Mishcon

The Beacon has asked me to offer some reflections on my ten years as a selectwoman, and I think it's a valuable exercise, because going cold turkey off the Board is a bit jarring, it turns out.

The Select Board's office is adminis-

tered by, you guessed it, the Town Administrator. Marj Roy keeps a positive attitude as she wears the many hats required in this small town position. She not only administers the business of the Select Board, but she also wears the hat of the Welfare Officer and Health Officer. Talk about herding cats. This is the hub into which all town business flows. From there it is handled directly, or moved on to the appropriate boards or committees.

The scope of issues that come before the town is broad to say the least. Everything from potholes to recycling, welfare, hazard mitigation plans, bridge replacement, Boy Scout and Girl Scout projects, you get the picture. As a Select Board member, you are in the loop, until one March Town Meeting Day, and someone else takes your place.

In ten years, I have sat on the Board with many wonderful people: Dennis Fenton, Roger Godwin, Jake Johnson, Don



Outgoing Andover Select Board member, Vicky Mishcon has the floor during the town meeting held on March 12. Photo: Bob Norander

See Mishcon on page 7

Town Meetings Vote to Increase Net Appropriations by 2.5% over 2018

Ed Hiller, For the Budget Committee

The 2019 annual meetings of the Town of Andover, the Andover School District and the Andover Fire District voted to raise and appropriate their budgets for the coming year. The total appropriations (net of pass-throughs) are \$7,928,332, up \$193,021 over last year, an increase of 2.5%. Last year the corresponding increase was 2.5%.

Andover Town Meeting

The recommended 2019 Operating Budget was reduced by \$15,652 to correct a typographical error. The meeting then voted to increase the recommended Operating Budget by \$12,000 to \$1,845,736. The changes voted were to add \$2,000 to Cemetery Labor and to add \$10,000 to Highway Labor

The meeting voted \$51,100 for the purchase of the property known as the White Oak sand pit: This amount is to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

A Capital Reserve Fund for Forest Fire Equipment was established, and \$10,000 was placed in the fund: The amount to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

An Expendable Trust Fund was established for Transfer Station projects, and \$15,000 was placed in the fund: The amount to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. See Appropriations on page 7

Net Appropriations				
Dept	2018	2019	Change	Percent
Schools	\$5,476,537	\$5,655,656	\$179,119	3.3%
Town	\$2,124,103	\$2,135,236	\$11,133	0.5%
Fire	\$134,671	\$137,440	\$2,769	2.1%
Total	\$7,735,311	7,928,332	\$193,021	2.5%

Andover School District Meeting

The Andover School District Meeting approved the Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$5,655,656, up \$179,119 over last year. A significant portion of this increase is due to an increase in Special Education expenses



Select Board Members David Blinn and Vicky Mishcon share a moment during a lull at the 2019 Town Meeting.

A Perspective on Town Meeting 2019 from a Select Board Member

Dave Blinn, Andover Select Board

I was asked to make comment pertaining to our March 12, 2019 Town Meeting.

Personally, I was disappointed with the meeting, but not necessarily for the reasons many folks have mentioned to me. My disappointment stems from not being able to cover each budget category, so we could point out the real

successes we achieved with a very tight budget.

Some highlights overshadowed at town meeting (see town report for details):

- White Oak Pit will become ours legally, after months of work with DOT to straighten out decades of miscommunications.

See Meeting on page 5

Andover Town Meeting 2019 - Reflections

Marjorie Roy, Andover Town Administrator

Shelley Geoghegan, Publisher/Editor

"Overall, everyone was there to do their job as residents and taxpayers." These are the words spoken by Andover Town Administrator Marjorie Roy, in recapping this year's Town Meeting, held on March 12. She said that, as Andover residents, we are all very passionate about our community, and that while that passion plays out in different ways, everyone was there in the spirit of making the town a better place.

One topic that was actively discussed involved switching from an elected Road Agent to one that is appointed. This has been voted on many times over the years, unsuccessfully, but this year it was passed. Now the real work begins.

Marjorie felt that one disappointment was the lack of adequate time to allow the Select Board a chance to



Marjorie Roy, Andover Town Administrator

talk about all the "really good budgeting" that has taken place. Some of that budgeting included saving the town a chunk of money by switching health-care providers.

See Dave Blinn's article for more of the good things that were discussed in the budgeting process.

Town Clerk's Office - A Thank You and General Information

**Bonnie Wesley
Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

I want to start by thanking everyone for your support by electing me as your town clerk. It really means a lot to me. Also, a special thanks to all of you who stepped up and helped with the elections as ballot clerks, ballot counters,

polling place set-up and take down and to those who helped set up the chairs for the town meeting. You are invaluable. We can't do it without you.

The office will be closed on April 3 so Stephanie and I can attend a tax training session. Dog licenses are due

See Clerk on page 8

Andover Beacon
PO Box 149
Andover NH
03216-0149

Prsrt Std
ECRWSS
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
Andover NH

POSTAL CUSTOMER