

WARRANT TOWN OF WEST GARDINER

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

To: Tina J. Marks
Resident of West Gardiner in the County of Kennebec

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of West Gardiner in said county, qualified by law to vote in Town Affairs, to meet at the West Gardiner Highway Department Garage in said Town on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the evening then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

Article 1: To choose a Moderator to preside over said meeting.

Chris McLaughlin was chosen to preside over the meeting.

Chris noted that anyone wanting to speak, go the microphone stand speak clearly. This will help with people hearing what one has to say.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to approve spending of additional funds for repairs to the Highway Department Loader or take any other action thereon.

Select Board Recommends up to \$50,000.00
From Surplus

Motion made to accept, & motion 2nd.

Discussion on loader update. The Highway Department Loader should arrive next week.

Article carries as written.

Article 3: To enact an Ordinance titled “West Gardiner Minimum Lot Size Ordinance.”

Motion made so move, & 2nd.

Discussion was made about how the minimum lot size of 40% of road used to make a minimum lot in an area in Town. The resident didn't feel it was right that one neighbor could do it but that another neighbor couldn't render that lot unusable.

A resident asked a question about fences with neighbors. The question was answered about height requirements of anything greater than 6 ft would be a “spite” fence and is

against the state law. Told the resident to look at statues as this ordinance was about the size of lots.

Article carries as written.

Article 4: To enact an Ordinance titled "Town of West Gardiner Self-Service Storage Facility Ordinance."

Motion made so moved, & article 2nd.

There was no discussion.

Article carries as written.

Article 5: To enact an Ordinance titled "Town of West Gardiner Solar Energy Systems Ordinance."

Motion made so moved, & article 2nd.

Discussion was made about the possibility of making an exception at the next Annual Town Meeting to #5 Exemptions. IF the Town wanted to install a solar system outback on town land behind the Town Office, there would need to be an amendment made to the ordinance. This will help with reducing the monthly energy bills we have for all the buildings because it would be considered a large solar field.

A resident stated they were disturbed by #3 Acceptability and Prohibition as we are in a time where we need more sources for heating. Times are hard for people, and this will make it harder. Maybe the town ordinance should be for setbacks and other restrictions rather than banning them all together.

A resident made a comment regarding the fire fighters having no proper training for fires at this time, agreed that we are in a climate crisis, but they need proper training. Also, what happens to the disposal of the materials at the end of their life, not enough knowledge currently.

Article carries as written.

Article 6: To enact an Ordinance titled "Town of West Gardiner Caregiver Retail Stores Licensing Ordinance."

Motion made so moved, & article 2nd.

Discussion was made about the selling and transferring of the business to their spouse, if suddenly passed away, should be allowed to continue the business if so wanted. An amendment could be presented at a future annual meeting to have this adjusted to reflect the ability to transfer the business.

Article carries as written.

Article 7: To enact an Ordinance titled “Town of West Gardiner Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facilities Licensing Ordinance.”

Motion made so moved, & article 2nd.

Discussion was made that there will be an amendment coming in a future meeting that will be addressing the inspection of the facility and the codes to be used for those inspections of facilities.

Article carries as written.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, motion 2nd.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

The attendance was approximately 80 residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela J. Phillis
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Town Clerk