

***Town of Chilmark***  
***SPECIAL TOWN MEETING***  
***MINUTES***  
January 22, 2024

MODERATOR: Janet L. Weidner  
TOWN CLERK: Jennifer L. Christy  
REGISTRARS: Susan M. Heilbron, Kimberly Manter  
CONSTABLE: Marshall E. Carroll, III  
TELLERS: Catherine Thompson, Ann Wallace

At the close of voter registration on January 12, 2024 there were one thousand one hundred and forty-seven (1147) registered voters in the Town of Chilmark. With one hundred ten (110) voters present at the Special Town Meeting, 10% of the total number of registered voters, the Moderator noted that there was a quorum (25) of voters present. The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Chilmark Community Center at 520 South Road. Constable Marshall E. Carroll, III attested to the posting of the warrant. The Moderator directed all those present who are not voters to please be seated in the back area of the Community Center in the designated seats. The Moderator also directed voters to please approach and stand at the microphones when recognized to speak and to state their names before speaking.

**Article 1.** To see if the Town will vote to approve and authorize a lease of less than 3,000 square feet of town owned land behind the Chilmark Elementary School at 8 State Road for a period of up to 30 years on the terms and conditions set forth in the Request For Proposals and the lease (both on file with the Town Clerk) between the Town and the successful proposer, and to authorize the Select Board and the Up Island Regional School District Committee to take all other actions related thereto.

**Town Meeting Action on Article 1:**

*The Moderator read the Article. The Article was moved and seconded. The Moderator called on a voter, Deborah Zetterberg, to speak. Deborah Zetterberg notified the Moderator that she had a motion to amend the Article, stating that the amendment was to substitute the number 4500 for 3000 in the Article 1, and delivered the proposed amendment to the Moderator. The motion to amend Article 1 was moved and seconded. Deborah Zetterberg gave a brief explanation stating that the proposed school classrooms and school space plan to remain 2400 square feet, but to allow for additional "play" space and to satisfy ancillary areas required by licensing, the building committee proposes to amend the number in the Article to 4500 from 3000. There was no more discussion on the amendment. The Moderator brought the amendment to Article 1 to a vote.*

**The moderator declared that the motion to amend Article 1 carried unanimously.**

*The Moderator read aloud Article 1, as amended. The Moderator recognized Deborah Zetterberg. Deborah Zetterberg described the benefits of preschool for children (3-5 yrs of age) and families and provided a short history of the Chilmark School. Ms. Zetterberg noted that the enrollment policy matches that of the Chilmark School and provided reasoning for the two classrooms, noting that there is a need for space due to high enrollment at the Chilmark School and that there is a current waitlist for the preschool. Ms. Zetterberg explained the preschool Board (Friends of the Chilmark Preschool) structure and membership. Alicia Knight was recognized by the Moderator and stood to explain the role of the building committee and to speak in support of the Article. Keith Fenner, a member of the school preschool building committee, was recognized and explained the proposed location of the proposed preschool and addressed other site details. Virginia Barbiatti, chairperson of the preschool fundraising committee, was recognized and described the progress of a 3.5 million fundraising campaign. Deborah Zetterberg was recognized again and stood to urge voters to vote in favor of the Article and to remind voters that the project would incur no cost to the Town. Candy Shweder, chairperson of the Conservation Commission, inquired about wetlands in the proposed site. Keith Fenner stood to respond that the building committee was relying on the expertise of engineers working on the project to identify those areas and propose a site for the preschool that was within the permitted areas for building. Select Board*

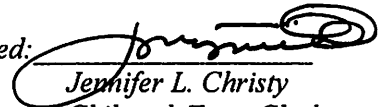
*member Jim Malkin asked Keith Fenner if the building will comply with all Town regulations and bylaws. Keith Fenner confirmed that this would occur. There was no more discussion. The Moderator brought the Article to a vote. The Moderator called for all those in favor to say aye. Those in favor said aye. The Moderator called for all those opposed to say nay. No voters said nay. The Moderator declared:*

**Article 1 is carried unanimously, as amended.**

*The Moderator inquired if there was any more business to come before the Town. Rob Hannemann was recognized and stood to update the Town on the completion of the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning) system and noted that the project was done on time and on budget. Mr. Hannemann thanked the project manager, general contractors and the school administration and faculty.*

*The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. The Moderator brought the motion to a vote and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.*

Certified:



*Jennifer L. Christy  
Chilmark Town Clerk  
January 26, 2024*