Pursuant to the foregoing notice a regular Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Greenwich was held in the Moderator’s Hall of Central Middle School and also via Zoom Webinar on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 8:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator Thomas J. Byrne.

The members pledged allegiance to the flag.

The Moderator announced that as all members had received a copy of the Call for the meeting, the reading of the Call would be omitted.

Attendance cards were presented showing 200 present, 28 absent and 2 vacancies.


All other members present attended via Zoom.

Those absent in District 1 – Laura A. Feda, Alison W. Ghiorse, Marla M. Weston; District 2 – Jessica B. DelGuercio; District 3 – Adam A. Rothman; District 4 – Josiane M. Schaffner-Parnell, John J. Thompson, J. Robert Tuthill; District 5 – Patricia H. “Patty” Roberts; District 6 – Emily V. Hunt, Monica Prihoda, Gary Segal; District 7 – Debbie L. Appelbaum, William W. Galvin, III, Mike Warner; District 8 – Lisa Becker Edmundson, Laura A. Kostin; District 9 – Lillian B. “Sharon” Shisler; District 10- Granit Balidemaj, Rachel Khanna, Lawrence S. Malkin, Jane S. Sprung; District 11 – Adam M. Brodsky, David E. Oliver, Elisabeth G. “Lisa” Stuart; District 12 – David de Milhau, Miriam Mennin, Donald T. Whyko.
The Moderator announced that as all members had received a copy of the minutes of the
October 25, 2021 meeting, the reading of the minutes would be omitted. He asked if there were
any corrections or comments. There being none, minutes were adopted by unanimous consent.

The body recognized and offered tributes to two long standing members and RTM leaders;
Arline Lomazzo and Thomas J. Byrne. The body also paid tribute to Carmella Budkins who is
retiring after 30 years as the Town Clerk.

Coline Jenkins, Member of District 6, offered the following tribute to Arline Lomazzo who is
retiring from the Representative Town Meeting after 38 years of service.

Tonight we honor Arline Lomazzo who has served the Town of Greenwich as an elected official
in the Representative Town Meeting for 38 years.

I interviewed Arline for the Proclamation (that will follow). During the interview two aspects of
Arline’s service floated to the top.

First she took the tragic death of her 16 years old son on Route One by Greenwich High School
and turned grief into action. Armed with her irrefutable arguments about sidewalks and public
safety, she persuaded the powers to examine and fund 19 sidewalk gaps along Route One from
Byram to Old Greenwich. Today as she departs, Arline and her band of colleagues have made
an enduring gift to the town.

My second point that floats to the top is Arline’s deep respect of town’s governance based on
civility, respect, and patience in listening to each other. She underscores the RTM is a non-
partisan body, run by its citizens, and dedicated to the affairs of the town.

So today we honor Arline Lomazzo, and thank her for leaving Greenwich a better place.

Michael Spilo, Chairman of Public Works Committee, offered the following additional tribute to
Arline Lomazzo.

Hi All,

On behalf of the Public Works Committee, I’d to thank Arline Lomazzo for her many years of
dedicated service to our Town and our committee. Arline is one of the longest serving members
of the Public Works Committee and served as our Chair for several terms. She developed several
of the processes and procedures we continue to use. Arline has always been thorough and on top
of the details and progress of all town projects. Arline was a strong advocate for sidewalks and
pedestrian safety and our children are safer walking to and from school largely due to her efforts.
We thank Arline for her hard work and dedication, and wish her all the best in her future
endeavors.

Lauren Rabin, Selectwoman, offered a Town Proclamation to Arline Lomazzo for her many
years of dedicated service to the Town of Greenwich.
The membership observed a moment of applause for Arline Lomazzo. The Moderator acknowledged Alexis Voulgaris, Moderator Pro Tem. Ms. Voulgaris asked Moderator Byrne to take a seat in the audience, where he was joined by his wife Megan and three of his four children. Ms Voulgaris individually recognized Mr. Edward Dadakis, Mr. Michael Mason, State Senator Ryan Fazio, Selectwoman Lauren Rabin and First Selectman Fred Camillo who each offered tributes on behalf of Moderator Thomas J. Byrne, who is retiring from his role as Moderator.

Edward Dadakis, Member of District 1, offered the following tribute to Thomas J. Byrne.

In November I was elected to my 21st RTM term. During those 42 years I served under 10 different first selectmen but I’ve only served under two moderators and, by the way, only two Town Clerks. So as Tom ends his tenure as Moderator and Carmen’s tenure as Town Clerk winds down it is indeed the end of an era for the RTM worthy of a celebration of gratitude.

While those 10 first selectmen all came before us to advocate for things they wanted and argue to the RTM why we should approve them, that is exactly what the moderator does not do.

I know this may come as a surprise, but Tom has some strong opinions. Yet I never heard a single one of them uttered from that podium. Tom knows the moderators job is to subservient his own opinion but to make absolutely certain that our opinion and the opinion of the townspeople are heard. Tom can be rightly proud that he made sure all opinions were welcome at our meetings.

Being Moderator is much more that standing at the podium each meeting. Although I’m told that Tom has stood at that podium the equivalent of 25 consecutive days. Yet he swears he never hid a bottle up there if things got tough.

Every month Tom dealt with 230 diverse, strong, unique personalities who are sure they know best. That would be you fine folks. Over his tenure as moderator there have been some pretty interesting personalities some may even call them characters.

Rather than naming some I ask each of you, just take a second, to imagine some of the strongest most colorful personalities you remember from RTM. You know which ones I mean. Tom I bet you have an interesting list.

While occasionally it might get a little hot, Tom managed every one of those personalities effectively making sure their actions were appropriate and not overdone, always protecting the decorum of the RTM.

Tom presided over some meaningful changes in RTM operations. My favorite is the implementation of the consent calendar speeding us through routine item approval. But Tom you didn’t use it enough. I’m still waiting for a full meeting on the consent calendar. Maybe tonight?

When Tom first joined the RTM, WGCH was the prime source of RTM meetings broadcasting live with microphones mounted at the speakers and moderator’s podiums. Tom guided us with
the transition from radio to live television, thank you Paul Curtiss, and for those of you who watch the replays in high definition you know how photogenic Tom can be. And Today technology advancement continues as many of you are zooming in tonight from God knows where.

As the pandemic hit, Tom made it indisputably clear that the RTM was not going to be sidelined with Tom Byrne as moderator. He embraced using zoom and voting by email.

We all remember that first meeting—a little slow, a little awkward and some even had the nerve to complain about Tom’s choice of music. Yet through it all we conducted town business. Tom fine-tuned the zoom meetings and now we are a lean, mean, zooming machine.

And the best by product of zoom meetings? More RTM members then ever attend. Tom did you ever think we would see the day attendance was 230? And more people are sharing their opinions too. Hence the 2-minute rule

Reflecting on Tom’s 26 years as moderator, I think we can say he exerted effective leadership often quietly, sometimes loudly, accomplishing much and preserving the effectiveness and respect of the largest local legislative body in America. He has left his mark on the RTM and the Town of Greenwich. While he will be joining us down here in the cheap seats next month, we all owe him a debt of gratitude for all he has done for us and the RTM. Thank you Tom.

Michael Mason, Town Labor Negotiator and past Board of Estimate Chairman, offered the following tribute to Thomas J. Byrne.

Good evening Mr Moderator, Members and Guests.

The people of Greenwich pause tonight to recognize and thank Moderator Thomas J. Byrne for his continued service on the representative town meeting.

Since 1988 he has been a member and has served as moderator since 1996.

Being asked to shed some reflections on Tom’s incredible service I asked myself Who is Tom Byrne?

Tom is a man of commitment and love for this community. His meeting attendance records will never be surpassed, his attention parliamentary governance and understanding Roberts Rules along with a respect and belief in our governmental system we have here in Greenwich gives him his drive and makes him the strongest pillar in our community.

I will get back to Tom in a minute.

Mr. Moderator, Tom… (as Neil Diamond said) Where it began, it was 1988.

1. D Tobin was moderator; Everett Smith was Moderator pro tem
2. John Margenot was at the helm as First Selectman, Paul Hicks selectman and Edward Lamont was selectman, latter to be our current Governor.
3. 3 months into your first term you were serving on the Ed committee under Harold Metz’s leadership and you had your first SOTMR on the call. The first of how many SMOR’s to date? Interestingly that one was about addressing affordable housing. History always seems to repeat itself. I think you knew that then.

4. That same March meeting, had 17 interim appropriations and a total of 34 interim requests in your first 12 months on the RTM. Maybe that was just the start of changes to come. (is that why department heads frown about interims?)

5. Capital projects, the first phase of the sewer upgrades began, 13M.

6. You made it thru the first budget approx. 160M, of which 41M was schools.

7. That June the RTM tabled a resolution about a housing trust fund, I am still on 1988 not last meeting?

8. In your first year you got a chance to begin working with some of the towns best leaders;
   a. John Meerbergan town attorney one 5 town attorneys
   b. William Anderson Police Chief one of 6 police chiefs you have worked with to date
   c. John Titsworth Fire chief again one of 5 chiefs you have worked with.
   d. Ernest Flieshman Superintendent of school, I must say I lost count of how many super’s you worked with
   e. And over 3800 RTM members have been sworn in.
   f. 55 BET members which is roughly 1/3rd of the total who have ever served.
   g. And back then Peter Tesei was serving as an alternate on legislative committee of the RTM.
   h. Rowland Harris was about to step aside from the Town Clerk’s office to then see our beloved Carmella Budkins begin her amazing career as town clerk.

Let’s move to your first year as moderator

So you were inspired to run for moderator for the 1996-1997 term

So on the third round of voting you were elected moderator. You win that evening against Joan Caldwell was a win for both of you and the town. The 2 of you became an incredible team that showed all of us teamwork, professionalism and commitment.

1. Tom you had 36 interim appropriations in your first term (so reducing interims had not been the focus YET)

2. Your first budget meeting as Moderator, had 29 motions to modify the recommended budget resolutions and the appropriations from the BET. 9 of them passed, 1.1M was cut.
   Dick Kriskey in his first year as BET Chairman had quite a workout that year.

3. Career firefighting forces were increased, sounds like history may just repeat itself one more time. Starting to think you have a crystal ball?

4. School construction, we had building committees for; Central Junior High, Dundee elementary, Eastern Junior High, North St. Elementary school. They had building committees appointed in your first term.

5. North Minus and Riverside on going building committees needed additional funding, maybe that was the warm up for Hamilton Ave interims or that other project at Greenwich High School?
6. And somehow Dean Goss was elected to almost every building committee.
7. Capital projects, the second phase of the sewer upgrades received funding 24M.
8. The town accepted 10 PPP gifts, you must be quite an inspiration to First Selectman Camillo.
9. The RTM argued about use of parking fund dollars, the argument ended and so did the positive fund balance.
10. The SOMR’s continued the newest was about playing field priorities. Somehow I think that discussion is not over.

Enough with the history for the moment. (Except one thought; how you lead the RTM thru COVID should be a documentary film in the making, AMAZING Job!)

Tom who?
The answer is very clear. The Town needed a leader and Thomas J. Byrne was the answer to the call.

Tom we all owe you our sincerest gratitude and appreciation. The 562 regular and special RTM meetings along with all of the standing committee meetings including claims, RTM orientation meetings and other various meeting requirements likely exceeds 1000 meetings. Let’s not forget the phone calls and E mails!

We owe your family even more gratitude. They shared you with our community and we must never forget they too made a great commitment to Greenwich.

I am personally thankful and honored to be able to share some words about Tom.

It is my earnest hope that we find more community members like you in our future.

I consider myself to be very lucky to have had his caring support and wisdom 7/24 thru my service in the town.

Mr. Moderator, on behalf of the Town of Greenwich, we thank you and love you!

Ms. Voulgaris announced that the Griswold Podium would be renamed the Byrne-Griswold Podium in honor of Moderator Byrne’s twenty-six (26) year tenure as Moderator and a plaque, which was presented at the meeting, shall be affixed to the Moderator’s Podium commemorating his years of service.

Ryan Fazio, State Senator, offered a State Proclamation to Thomas J. Byrne for his many years of dedicated service to the Town of Greenwich.

Lauren Rabin, Selectwoman and Fred Camillo, First Selectman, offered a Town Proclamation to Thomas J. Byrne for his many years of dedicated service to the Town of Greenwich.

The membership observed a moment of applause for Thomas J. Byrne.

Edward Dadakis, Member of District 1, offered the following tribute to Carmella C. Budkins.
Some refer to Greenwich as the gateway to New England. If you chose a gateway to Greenwich it would have to be the Town Clerk’s office and our beloved Town clerk Carmen Budkins.

When Carmen called me this Fall to tell me she had decided to retire I was both sad and happy. Sad for our town that she is departing but happy for her because she has most certainly earned a long, happy and healthy retirement.

I first got to know Carmen when Dolly Powers suggested she would be a good vice Chairman the year I was the Republican campaign chairman. I called her totally out of the blue and after a 90-minute conversation I was certain I had a new friend. I was right. That friendship has endured almost 4 decades.

The job of Town Clerk isn’t simple as it involves managing the very life blood of Greenwich---its documents and records. When you are born, when you die, when you marry, when you buy a house, when you sell a house and numerous other events in our lives are chronicled by the Town Clerk’s office for posterity—and also for inquiring minds everywhere.

As the RTM clerk she and her staff are in charge of all the information that RTM members get, preparing the call, the explanos as well as managing the meeting’s voting tabulation and working to get us minutes which accurately reflect what happened. Sometimes we forget how much work that involves because Carmen and her staff make it look easy.

And you know those nights the agenda is long and you and I might sneak out a little early, not Carm. Every meeting she is here until the bitter end.

Much as with Tom, Carmen has embraced technology and has truly brought the RTM into the 21st century by computerizing all of the information we need. Now a simple click of the mouse and you can find out all about our RTM meetings.

But my enduring memory of Carmen’s role with the RTM, is when at the start of each term she stands at the Moderators podium to gavel in the new RTM, administer the oath of office and preside over the election of the moderator.

Carmen has done an amazingly effective job. I guess that’s why she has won all those elections.

Yet Carmen’s hallmark is her ability to get along with everyone. Every single person, RTM member or not, who walked into Carmen’s office over the past 30 years found themselves, as I did, a friend. She treats everyone with respect, thoughtfulness and responds quickly and efficiently with whatever they need. With Carmen as Town Clerk our Town Hall was always welcoming. This is what differentiates her as an extraordinary Town Clerk. If you are leaving a legacy and she is, that is the kind of legacy to leave.

I have been honored to call Carmen my friend, my Vice Chairman and my Town Clerk.

Carmen thank you for all you have done for Greenwich and the RTM.
Peter Tesei, Past First Selectman, offered the following tribute to Carmella C. Budkins.

I'm joining you tonight to also add some personal thanks and gratitude to my dear friend Carmella Budkins. Carmen Budkins and I go back to the earliest days of service by service in town government in many respects I would never have served in town government had not been for Carm.

Frankly, early on, and in my involvement, many people thought I was one of Carm’s children. Do you want to talk about dynasty that would have been quite an interesting scenario if I was. But Carm spoke to the heart of Greenwich everything that she did she did to help her fellow human being. She saw things in terms of people, not in terms of politics and that to me has been a hallmark she always put people first.

No matter what the endeavor was whether it was serving the RTM, or serving on the town’s Board of Health or to engage with the attorneys or with the general public, who have very personal intimate matters that came before her office she always treated them with a welcome.

A Welcoming smile and an eagerness to help them get done what they needed to do in her office and granted she has been well served by her leadership. We’ve been fortunate to have someone of her care and concern and my hope and wish for her is that she has a long and enjoyable retirement with her husband John, her three children and her five grandchildren and that she gets to turn the page and live a beautiful next chapter as fulfilling as the one that she’s concluding over the next three weeks. So Carmen my best wishes to you God bless you, thank you for all you have done for this town, for the institutions and for being the wonderful lovable person that you are Thank you and God bless you.

Lauren Rabin, Selectwoman and Fred Camillo, First Selectman, offered a Town Proclamation to Carmella C. Budkins for her many years of dedicated service to the Town of Greenwich.

The membership observed a moment of applause for Carmella C. Budkins.

Pursuant to the RTM Rules, the Moderator designated that the following items be placed on the consent calendar – 1 - 5.

The items on the consent calendar are as follows:

1. **RESOLVED, that the following named person, nominated by the Board of Selectmen, be appointed a Regular Member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (R6) for a term expiring October 31, 2022.**

   NORMA KERLIN

2. **RESOLVED, that the following named person, nominated by the Board of Selectmen, be appointed a Regular Member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (R4) for a term expiring October 31, 2025.**
PETER H. LINDEROTH

3. RESOLVED, that the following named person, nominated by the Board of Selectmen, be appointed an Alternate Member of the Historic District Commission (A4) for a term expiring October 31, 2026.

MATTHEW BERNARD

4. RESOLVED, that the following named person, nominated by the Board of Selectmen, be appointed a Regular Member of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency (R2) for a term expiring October 31, 2024.

ALAN ‘BRIAN’ HARRIS

5. RESOLVED, that the following named person, nominated by the Board of Selectmen, be appointed an Alternate Member of the Planning & Zoning Commission (A2) for a term expiring October 31, 2024.

ROBERT BAROLAK

The vote was now on the Consent Calendar.

| In Favor | - | 197 |
| Against  | - | 0  |
| Abstentions | - | 0  |

Items Carried

The Moderator announced that Item No. 7 on the Call was now before the meeting.

Francis J. “Kip” Burgweger, Chairman of Legislative & Rules Committee, offered the following resolution, regarding Item No. 7 which was duly moved and seconded.

7. RESOLVED, THAT IT IS THE SENSE OF THIS MEETING that candidates for Moderator and Moderator Pro Tem of the 2022-2023 Representative Town Meeting file their names with a brief statement of their qualifications with the Town Clerk on or before noon of December 23, 2021 for inclusion in the Call of the January 18, 2022 meeting.

Francis J. Burgweger, Member of District 8, made a motion to waive the “Second Reading” on Item No. 7, which was duly moved and seconded.

On a vote by Raised Hands, the motion to waive the “Second Reading” requirement carried by a 2/3rds vote in favor

The vote was now on Item No. 7.
Item Carried

The Moderator announced that Item No. 8 on the Call was now before the meeting.

Carlton M. "Carl" Higbie, IV, Member of District 8, offered the following resolution, regarding Item No. 8 which was duly moved and seconded.

8. RESOLVED, Sec. 4-70. Removing Masks and Face Coverings for Children in the Town of Greenwich both in Public and Private School Systems

- In that the First Selectman, Fred Camillo, has lifted the mask enforcement law on all residents in the Town of Greenwich as of September 24, 2021
- In that children have a 99.999% survivability rate from Covid and less chance of spreading Covid than adults
- In that the Town of Greenwich currently has less than 50 Covid cases out of 62,840 (0.079%) residents and continues to decline
- In that approximately 80% of the Town of Greenwich is vaccinated and a higher percentage has natural immunity thereby reaching “herd immunity”
- In that nearly 100% of teachers in both private and public schools have been vaccinated
- In that scientific studies have proven that breathing through a mask for extended periods of time is unhealthy for children

We ask that the Representative Town Meeting to require both the private and public schools that domicile in the Town of Greenwich shall not require its students of any age to wear masks or face coverings, nor shall the Town of Greenwich enforce state or federal orders, regulations or statutes requiring such coverings for healthy children. The term “healthy children” shall include all those individuals for whom the Town of Greenwich does not possess certification, specific to each individual, from a licensed medical doctor asserting the individual has a communicable disease. Both public and private schools will be included in this Ordinance in that the RTM cares about all children that are in the school systems in the Town of Greenwich and all children should be treated equally.

Article 4

XXX 1. Purpose.
1.1 This Ordinance is intended to leave the choice of making children wear masks or face coverings up to the parents.
1.2 The original intent of the mask/shutdown was first implemented to “flatten the curve” for 14 days. It has now been more than 18 months.
1.3 We have reached the new definition by the CDC of “herd immunity”
1.4 There is no scientific evidence shown by any member of any school board that masks reduce the spread of Covid in any meaningful way.
1.5 Masks are only causing detriment to healthy children, including but not limited to, overall health and breathing, learning and ability to focus, and emotional interaction with their peers.

§ XXX-2. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

   1.1 Mask means any covering or intended covering of face by any material
   1.2 Covid is can also be referred to as Covid-19 or Coronavirus

§ XXX-3. Right to wear mask or face covering.

   1.1 In no way does this ordinance prevent children that attend schools in the Town of Greenwich from wearing masks if they or their parents so desire.

§ XXX-4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately after its approval by the RTM

Before accepting the item, the Moderator asked the Law Department for its opinion as to whether the item was in legal order. Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney, explained that the proposed ordinance was not in legal order as it sought to regulate what went on within the public schools, which the RTM cannot do, and it purported to ignore existing state law on the subject of masks in schools.

The Moderator explained that the chair cannot accept a resolution that the Law Department has determined not to be in legal order. The Moderator further explained that the RTM Rules provide for an opportunity for a member to appeal any legal opinion of the Law Department. RTM Rules, III, 1.3.b.1. That appeal provision requires that the RTM vote whether or not to refer such an appeal to the Legislative & Rules Committee in the first instance by a majority vote. If the RTM made such a referral, L&R would study the issue and report back at the next meeting. At that subsequent meeting, the RTM would then take a final vote on whether to sustain the opinion of the Law Department.
Carlton M. “Carl” Higbie, IV, Member of District 8, appealed the legal opinion of the Law Department pursuant to RTM Rule III. 1.3.b.1.

Edward T. Broadhurst, Member of District 5, offered a motion to limit debate on the appeal for a total of thirty (30) minutes with each speaker allotted ninety (90) seconds each.

On a vote by Raised Hands, the motion to limit debate carried by a 2/3rds vote in favor.

Michael Spilo, Member of District 11 raised a point of information noting that he desired to appeal the ruling of the chair.

The Moderator explained that Robert's Rules provides that "if a point of order is raised while an appeal is pending, there is no appeal from the chair's ruling on this point or order" until the pending appeal has been decided. RONR (12th ed.) 24:3(2)(a). The Moderator noted that he would treat Mr. Spilo's point of information as a point of order and would recognize him to make his appeal after the Higbie appeal of the Law Department opinion had been voted on.

The vote was now on the Higbie appeal of the Law Department's opinion as to the legal order of Item 8.

| In Favor | - | 43 |
| Against  | - | 141 |
| Abstentions | - | 7 |

The Appeal Failed

The Moderator recognized Mr. Spilo to make a further appeal, but Mr. Spilo elected not to do so.

There being no further business, the Moderator adjourned the meeting, upon unanimous consent, at 10:20 P.M.

ATTEST:
CARMELLA C. BUDKINS
TOWN CLERK