

THOMAS J. BYRNE
MODERATOR
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
GREENWICH, CT

TO: RTM Members

DATE: August 31, 1998

RE: The Digital Age

<http://www.state.ct.us/munic/greenwich/rtm>

Brady Anderson and DeCaro.

Some of you (the sports enthusiasts) might think of Brady Anderson as the center fielder for the Baltimore Orioles. And some of you might think DeCaro is what Father Guido Sarducci would say is the type of vehicle that Franklin Bloomer would like to see used less in and around Town.

But to me, Brady Anderson and DeCaro are the talented and tireless RTM members who have guided the RTM into the Digital Age.

Bob Brady of District 5, Jerry Anderson of District 10, and Fred DeCaro of District 12.

I have had the privilege of working with these three gentlemen in an effort to use technology to advance the work of the RTM. Their accomplishments have been tremendous. I am extremely proud to announce that the RTM now has a presence on the Internet. In mid-August, thanks to the efforts of Fred DeCaro, the RTM Web site became a reality. The address of that site is:

<http://www.state.ct.us/munic/greenwich/rtm>

(Webmaster's note: although this address is different than the address in the printed version of the document, it works exactly the same way; its only virtue is that it is shorter and that it will take you to the same place.)

The information available online includes:

An RTM directory - We now have the ability to update our directory as the information changes. You will be asked at your district meeting to review your online listing for typos or outdated information. Please be patient as we process any changes.

The upcoming Call and Explanatory Comments - Because the State controls the Web site, we will have to see how quickly the information we send to the State gets posted online. We anticipate, however, that the online Call information will be available before you receive your copy in the mail. Calendar of Meetings; and

Summary of the history, powers and organization of the RTM, courtesy of the League of Women Voters RTM Directory.

Our online presence has been made possible by the ability and willingness of our Town departments to learn how to submit Call information electronically. Bob Brady, Jerry Anderson and Fred DeCaro did a magnificent job in guiding Town personnel through this learning process. They prepared a detailed, yet comprehensible, set of instructional documents and conducted a seminar for Town personnel on this new procedure. Maria Hulbert, the Town LAN Administrator, assisted each step of the way.

The response was equally magnificent. Every department that submitted an item for the September Call did so electronically. Such cooperation allowed us to prepare a standardized Call and Explanatory Comments and to post those documents online quickly. I want to express my admiration and appreciation for the professionalism shown by our Town personnel in this exercise. I would especially like to thank the staff in Carmella Budkins' office for their assistance in this endeavor. Dorothea Meilinggaard, who celebrated her 40th anniversary with the Town this summer, and Kim Spezzano immediately adapted to this new method of preparing the Call and helped others in Town Hall do the same.

The RTM has now taken its first step in assisting Greenwich to become a model Internet community. Residents who are connected to the Internet now have unprecedented access to the work that we are asked to do. Pass the word to your friends and neighbors. I expect that, in time, the end result of our effort will be wider discussion of issues prior to Town Meetings and better informed decisions. And who knows, maybe other Boards will follow suit so we can more readily learn what they are working on.

I hope that you like our new look and this technology initiative. I invite suggestions for future projects (we have a list we continue to work on), but caution you to be patient: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." Of course, we have an advantage over others on this journey down the information superhighway. We don't have to walk. We have Brady Anderson to drive us in DeCaro.