

There were 247 town meeting members; 124 town meeting members constitute a quorum. The Constable reported a quorum at 7:45 p.m. and the May 21, 2012 session of the April 30, 2012 Annual Town Meeting was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:50 p.m.

The Moderator asked Town Meeting to rise and observe a moment of silence in memory of Marilyn Gonter who passed away on May 20, and Donald Pitkin who passed away on May 11.

ARTICLE 27. Local Historic District (Historic Commission)

VOTED by a declared two-thirds vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town by adding a Local Historic District Bylaw as printed in the April 2012 Historical Commission Report to Town Meeting, and creating the Dickinson Local Historic District as shown on the plan labeled "Local Historic District Study Area", dated 02/17/2012, all as pursuant to MGL Chapter 40C.
Action taken on 5/21/12.

ARTICLE 28. Petition Article – Reversing Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission (Swift et al)

VOTED unanimously to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations;

WHEREAS, Corporations are not people but instead are entities created by the law of states and nations;

WHEREAS, this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission has unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history;

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government;

Now be it resolved that the Town of Amherst, Massachusetts, hereby calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.

And be it further resolved that the Massachusetts Legislature be urged to call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.

Now be it further resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sen. John F. Kerry and Sen. Scott P. Brown, Congressman John W. Olver, Massachusetts State Senator Stanley Rosenberg, and Massachusetts State Representative Ellen Story.
Action taken on 5/7/12.

ARTICLE 29. Petition Article – Bylaw Regarding Sharing of Information with Federal Agencies (Hooke et al)

VOTED to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Town of Amherst has been enriched and built by generations of immigrants; and,

WHEREAS the program called "Secure Communities" (SComm), run by federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement, harms our communities by mandating the sharing of local law enforcement reporting with the Department of Homeland Security on individuals they detain or arrest, thus involving local law enforcement in federal immigration policy; and,