



**TOWN OF GRAFTON**  
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Roger R. Trahan, Jr.  
Town Moderator

### **Report of the Town Moderator (2010 A.D.)**

In this elected role, I am the presiding officer at Town Meeting, open to all voters, upon which the legislative powers of the Town are exercised. This position entails regulating Town Meeting proceedings, deciding all questions of order, and making public the declaration of all votes. I am also the appointing authority of our nine-member Finance Committee. Town Meeting may also determine whether the Moderator will be the appointing authority for other committees which may be called together from time-to-time. As of December 31, 2010, they included the six at-large members of the nine-member Secondary School Building Committee and some members of the Center Station Building Committee (fire station).

The year 2010 started off with a huge Special Town Meeting on Saturday, February 6, 2010, to vote on whether to build a new high school. That meeting also voted to transfer \$330,000 from Free Cash into our Stabilization Fund. The school project was approved by a vote of 1,077 to 157, far greater than the required two-thirds. The Free Cash transfer was also approved, albeit by a fraction of those who remained after the school vote. The portion of the meeting for the school warrant article encompassed the high school auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria. I appointed John Morgan as my Deputy Moderator, and he also presided over the cafeteria. I appointed Christopher DiSenso as an Assistant Moderator and he presided over the gymnasium. That February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting took lots of preparation, including ongoing communication with the Secondary School Building Committee through its Chairperson, Rich McCarthy. I also sought clarification from the Massachusetts School Building Authority on issues regarding the wording of the warrant article, main motion and scope of the project. This was followed by my letters to The Grafton News and The Daily Grafton on-line, addressing the main motion as it related to the scope of the project, and an assurance of adequate facilities, including the necessary audio and video feeds to accommodate up to 2,000 people.

Under Massachusetts General Laws 41-107, a Town Clerk may be sworn into office by the Moderator. Along these lines, I had the honor of swearing in our distinguished Town Clerk, Maureen Clark shortly after her re-election of May 3, 2010.

Two meetings occurred on May 10, 2010: a Special Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m., followed by the annual Spring Town Meeting at 7:30 p.m. During both of those meetings, Daniel Concaugh served as my Deputy Moderator. During the annual meeting, I stepped down and Mr. Concaugh presided over articles 18 and 35. Article 18 reauthorized the revolving account pertaining to One Grafton Common (Grafton Town House), and article 35 authorized Community Preservation funds toward making the Grafton Town House accessible. At the time, I was a member of Grafton's Commission on Disability which endorsed the accessibility project. I also spoke from Town Meeting floor in favor of the appropriation under article 35. The details of each Town Meeting may be found in Grafton's Annual Report. Underscoring the importance of attending Town Meeting is the fact that the Town voted by a standing count of 74-73 to amend sections of Grafton's Personnel By-Law under article 5 of the annual meeting.

Regarding Finance Committee appointments and reappointments, at our annual Spring Town Meeting, I reappointed Lisa Rice to a three-year term ending June 30, 2013. Three vacancies also occurred on the Finance Committee. Dave Ross was elected to the Board of Selectmen on May 3, 2010 and could not serve in both capacities, and Sandy Merrill and Doris Metivier both opted not to renew their terms which ended June 30, 2010. I would like to extend thanks to Dave, Sandy, and Doris for their dedicated public service. I then posted the three vacancies on both the Town Bulletin Board and web site, The Grafton News, and on GCTV's electronic bulletin board. That led to interviewing five people in person and appointing three: Lorna Mangano (through 6/30/2011), James (Jay) Cummings (through 6/30/2013), and Wayne Hutchinson-Fontana (through 6/30/2013). One challenge of appointing Finance Committee members is that each of the Town's four precincts must have at least one representative, with no more than four representing any one precinct. As of December 31, 2010, the representation was as follows: Precinct one (1), Precinct two (2), Precinct three (3), Precinct four (3).

Our Fall Town Meeting of October 18, 2010 was fairly routine and contained 24 warrant articles. Daniel Concaugh served as my Deputy Moderator at that meeting. Prior to the meeting, I did a Town Meeting preview of the warrant articles on GCTV. The assistance of Bill Robidoux and Rick Schultze at GCTV was munificent. I also wrote a letter to the editor of the Grafton News, calling attention to that meeting. The Daily Grafton on-line also profiled me on October 18, 2010, including calling attention to that evening's Town Meeting. The most debated issue that night was under the main motion on Article 6 to allow the Grafton Public Library Trustees to apply for any available grants to fund an expanded or new Grafton Public Library.

I continue to refuse a pay, even though Town Meeting continues to appropriate a \$150.00 stipend. It may not be much, but I consider myself to be a volunteer and the funds may be better spent elsewhere.

I continue my work as a member of the Massachusetts Moderators Association and currently serve on its Board of Directors (Class of 2012), and as Co-Chair of its Legislative Committee, sitting alongside Richard P. Bowen of Scituate. My membership has allowed me to interact with over 200 current and former Moderators across the Commonwealth on Town Meeting matters. I attended the annual meeting of the Association on Friday, October 29, 2010 at Old Sturbridge Village. The main workshops focused around Town Meeting efficiency and electronic voting at Town Meetings.

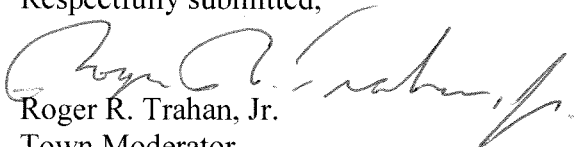
Grafton's Annual Report sometimes goes to print containing typographical errors. As a matter of clarification, the local election results of May 5, 2008 as printed in the Annual Report of 2008 inadvertently listed my vote total in Precinct Two as 48, instead of the correct figure of 485 (prevailing 485-304). The other precinct totals and overall totals in which I prevailed (1533 to 1078, and 82 blanks) accurately reflect the official totals.

As an elected official, I had the honor of marching in the Memorial Day Parade on May 31, 2010 and the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration parade on October 3, 2010. Speaking of Grafton's 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary, my wife, Lori Dauphinais Trahan and I donated large duplicate copies of the proprietors' meeting records of 1735 to the Grafton Historical Society for display. Each of the proprietors' meetings had a moderator, as did each of the Town Meetings of that era.

I hope that I am not overlooking anyone but the following individuals were available throughout the year to answer questions, discuss issues, advertise, or provide assistance regarding all of the aspects of Town Meeting: Police Chief Normand A. Crepeau, Fire Chief Michael Gauthier, Building Inspector Bob Berger, Town Clerk Maureen Clark, Donna Girouard, Judy Demers, every election worker, Finance Committee Chairman David Libbey, Town Administrator Tim McInerney, Cindy Ide, Nancy Hazen, Donald Clark, Jenn Paluzzi, Tony LeMay, Steve Libuda, Bill Robidoux, Rick Schultze, Marcia Pereira, Ann Morgan, Attorney Anthony E. Penski, Attorney Ginny S. Kremer, and my fellow Town Moderators.

It was great to have served Grafton in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Roger R. Trahan, Jr.  
Town Moderator