



OBSERVER REPORT

FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE – 7-9-24

Hybrid Meeting – Not recorded

LWVM Observer – Bonnie Grenier

Attendees- Thatcher Keezer, Dirk Isbrandtsen, Debra Larkin, Mimi Hollister, Kurt James

Guest: Logan Casey, Sustainability Coordinator

MBTA 3A Zoning

The MBTA Zoning article was defeated at town meeting by a close vote. The town has until December 31, 2024 to come into compliance with the law. This would require a vote in favor of the law at a special town meeting before the end of the year. Not being in compliance would put the town at risk of losing eligibility for certain state grants. It's up to the Select Board to schedule the special town meeting.

Logan Casey, Sustainability Coordinator mentioned that it's a challenge to determine exactly what grants might be at risk in part because it requires collecting information from various town departments. He suggested using the Housing Production Plan to help lay the groundwork to promote the narrative as to why it's important to pass this zoning article.

The opponents of Article 36 did a very good job of making their case with voters both before and at town meeting. It's clear that the proponents must state their case more clearly and convincingly if they are going to be successful at the special town meeting. This is a complicated law and will require stating the facts in plain language. They will need to be better prepared to state their case. This will require a joint effort of both town and community resources. There needs to be an on-going effort to put this information in front of voters before the special town meeting. This information should be presented in various forms to increase public awareness and garner support.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 6th at 3:30 at Abbot Hall. At that meeting they would like to focus on the role of the Fair Housing Committee going forward.