

Exhibit A

MEMO - August 7, 2013 - Nina Daniel

Looking ahead: Consequences of a 2% quorum

While no one has a crystal ball, it behooves the Commission to consider the likely consequences of its actions, specifically of the 2% quorum requirement which proved problematic at the 2013 ATBM, causing much public consternation and dissatisfaction. Clearly, the 2% quorum requirement needs major revision or, I would recommend, elimination. To those who say we must continue to give it more time (to fail?), I would suggest that it would be folly to repeat the same exercise next year and expect a different result than in 2013.

I am particularly concerned that if the 2% quorum requirement continues, serious and unfortunate consequences will ensue:

(1) In a matter of time, an unrealistic ATBM quorum requirement effectively will end the Weston ATBM itself because people will give up attending since a valid vote and the option to reduce spending will be impossible, or improbable at best. Additionally, as now envisioned, the ATBM adjourns as soon as the quorum count fails, rendering the Meeting a useless exercise and a waste of time to attend, not the unique public arena for debate and the exchange of ideas that it traditionally has been.

(2) Sadly, a quorum requirement means that a valid vote for those who attend the ATBM will be denied by those who choose not to attend, truly a perversion of the democratic process. We already have seen this happen and noted at the 2013 ATBM the attempt to thwart the rights of others by special interests who would manipulate and suppress attendance to avoid reaching the quorum. The temptation is great and truly corruptive of the civic process of voting.

(3) Inevitably, people will question the expense of holding an ATBM since it no longer will serve a purpose different from the referendum.

(4) The 2nd Charter Revision Commission will have engineered, in retrospect, a result that:

(a) does not have broad popular support; that is, the elimination of the Weston ATBM

(b) is slipped through over summer recess before being presented to the BOS on September 13th

(5) The public has no time to understand that adopting a 2% quorum may eliminate the ATBM itself in short order, and thus would deny Weston residents the one opportunity they have to adjust downward the budget. This is a fundamental right that the public currently enjoys which will be taken away through the mechanism of a technical requirement, a 2% quorum, with the likely consequence of eliminating the ATBM itself over time.

The 2nd Charter Revision Commission was convened for the purpose of reviewing issues which need clarification or correction. It should not become an opportunity to double down on a relatively minor but problematic quorum requirement, in what may seem to some to be a disingenuous tactic to eliminate the long standing tradition of the Weston ATBM.

In consideration of all these observations, I strongly recommend eliminating the quorum

requirement.