

Opinion

Sustainable Marblehead: Town Meeting Day

By Lynn Nadeau

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We in this town are proud New Englanders who take our grandmothers' adage to Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle to heart - we desire to waste not and to be frugal with our resources.

We look to our Finance Committee to carefully watch the financial bottom line and makes recommendations to Town Meeting to manage our monetary resources. And yet we all know that there is another bottom line - a bottom line which looks to the future and the long view to protect our homes and preserve our beaches. We know that we ought not to squander the finite natural resources that sustain us. We know that we must husband these resources by wise use and thoughtful planning.

In our homes, we instruct our children to be careful: to turn off lights, to turn off the tap while toothbrushing, to take just what they will eat. We combine car trips and walk or bike if possible. We insulate our homes. These energy efficient and sustainable practices make sense individually. As a town and as a public policy, Sustainable Marblehead urges citizens to attend Town Meeting on May 7 at 7pm and vote for two warrant items that will do for the town what we do as individuals.

Warrant item 44 adopts the Stretch Energy Code for new building which is one of several requirements in order for our town to apply for Green Community status. Green communities status allows access to sizable state grants that help implement clean energy projects in municipal buildings, facilities, and schools.

Warrant item 45 sets an intention for us to follow resource-saving principles. It is an aspirational intent, worthy of our declaration and vision.

There 207 municipalities that have updated their building codes to modernize them by complying with energy efficient building practices and have already satisfied the requirements to become a Green Community. There are 210 municipalities in the Commonwealth that have set their intention to follow resource-saving principles.

Marblehead Forever - if not first in these endeavors, at least not last.