

## MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS

*Excerpts From the Official Recorded Minutes on the Subject of Memorial Day Weekend, 1971 and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War*

### Selectmen's Meeting June 7, 1971

“A vivid description of this meeting, the minutes of which found below, is given in a Lexington Minuteman story written by editor Anne Scigliano on June 10:

*‘Only a few times in the history of Lexington has Cary Memorial Hall been as crowded as it was Monday evening when more than 1000 persons filed in to hear opinions of the way the Board of Selectmen handled the Vietnam Veterans encampment on the Battle Green and the subsequent arrest of over 400 persons in the dawn of Memorial Day, 1971.*

*Last Wednesday, at a regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen, some 400 townspeople turned out expecting to be heard. Prior to consideration of their scheduled agenda, the Selectmen appeared before the people and Chairman Robert Cataldo told them that by prior arrangement only one resident was to be heard that evening. The others wishing to speak were told that two hours of Monday's meeting would be set aside and that those who wished to give vent to their opinions could do so by first registering with the secretary of the Board.*

*Forty-four residents called to register their names; a previous vote to allow not more than 10 minutes to each speaker had to be changed to limit each to four, but in those four minutes, the speakers—those on both sides of the issues—referred to the incidents of 1775, the recent Washington encampment by Vietnam Veterans Against the War, philosophies about the war in Southeast Asia, the issue of law and order and the duty of the Selectmen.*

*Speaking Monday evening before the crowded and hot and sticky gathering which seemed to be fairly evenly divided between opponents and proponents, were 11 Town Meeting Members, two high school students, three Vietnam veterans, one clergyman, a teacher of American history, a refugee from Hungary, a former president of the Lexington League of Women Voters, two doctors, and a visitor from Los Angeles, Calif. Their presentations were punctuated with boos and hisses, and the time reserved*

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*to one speaker was all but taken up with clapping.*

*In all, 38 residents aired their opinions, three of them speaking for groups. Twenty-three opposed the Selectmen, 12 sided with them, and three were non-committal.*

*In the heat generated by lights set up by cameramen from three Boston television channels, Chairman Cataldo, noting that “emotion is as high as it was last Wednesday” asked that the audience recognize and respect all opinions presented.*

*“We are present for a purpose, not to be ridiculed, and I ask you sincerely to respect this.”*

The meeting started at 7:30 p.m. and was held in Cary Hall for the purpose of giving the citizens an opportunity to express their feelings on the issue of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

NAME	REMARKS
J. Keith Butters	Spoke in opposition
Patricia A. Swanson	Spoke in favor
Louis DiNapoli	Spoke in favor
Mary Shunney	Spoke in favor
Bob Jackman	Spoke in favor
Frank Sandy	Spoke in opposition
Arthur Kaledin	Spoke in opposition
Nancy Earsy	Spoke in opposition
Charles LaMantia	Spoke in opposition
Elizabeth Williams	Withdrew
Stillman Williams	Spoke in opposition
Paul Plasse	Spoke in favor
Roger Dingman	Spoke in opposition
Daniel Small	Spoke in opposition
Fr. John Crowley	Did not speak
Glenn Jones	Spoke in favor
M. Chandler Crocker, 2nd.	Spoke in favor
Arthur Liebman	Spoke in opposition
Sarah Hornig	No position on weekend but felt an effort should be made to solve the problem of ending the war.
Oliver Selfridge	Spoke in opposition

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Norma McGavern	Spoke in opposition
David Epstein	Spoke in opposition
Erna Fekete	Supports the Board on the basis that people in this country should obey any decision made on the basis that this is the only country in the world that you have the right to vote to change any decisions or laws.
Anne Webster	Spoke in opposition
Gloria Brackett	Spoke in favor
John Maguire	Spoke in opposition
Dr. Donald Taylor	Spoke in opposition
Dr. Angelo Laudini	Withdrew
Carl Bastress	Spoke in opposition
Frank Michelman	Spoke in opposition
Martin Small	Spoke in opposition
Dan Fenn	Spoke in opposition
Major Gerard Devlin	Spoke in favor
Greg Baldwin	Spoke in favor
Fr. Edward J. Goudette	Did not speak
Russell Corkum	Did not speak
Robert Beattie	Spoke in opposition
Bill Reed	Did not speak
Douglas Ross	Spoke in opposition
Herbert Glucksman	Spoke in opposition
Albert Szabo	Withdrew
Benjamin J. Mayo, Jr.	Spoke in favor
Rev. Herbert Adams	Efforts should be made by all to solve our differences and come back as one to face the bigger problems that surround us.
Christopher Gregory	Spoke in opposition
David Lehman	Is from California and spoke on unity.

Individual members of the Board of Selectmen made comments regarding the issues and the statements made. The Board then voted to resume its meeting in the Bird Room.”

[A regular meeting of the Board was held in the Bird Room at 10:22 p.m.

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and discussed topics such as granting a permit for an outdoor concert, traffic in the Center, Green guides, and Flag Day.]