

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 10:15 AM

Members present: Karen Kayen, chair, Henry Scheier, Cheryl Lindberg, and Al Converse

The duly warned meeting was held as part of the Norwich Eating Day and the public was asked to attend.

1. Cheryl moved with Henry's second, to approve the minutes of Feb.19 '08 as corrected. Passed unanimously.
2. The above minutes were reviewed orally and copies were distributed for the benefit of the public.
3. There was a discussion of the plot of various costs on page I-10 in the Town Report. There was concern about the large increase in the per-pupil costs at the Marion Cross school. This led to a discussion of the total cost which have increased at a lower rate. Rob Edson, Principal, explained that much of the per-pupil increase was due to a budget-to-budget comparison which showed a constant number of teachers whereas in fact the number had declined by one.
4. The question, "Can we afford Norwich?", which had been posed by the organizers, was discussed, resulting in the quasi-conclusion that the increase in the tax rate was affordable but that the rate of increase in expenditures appeared to be unsustainable. It was pointed out that, for anyone with an income below \$90,000, the school tax was set equal to 3% of income rather than as a fraction of the property value, and that this greatly helps the affordability of Norwich.
5. Cheryl moved, with Al's second, to adjourn at 11 AM. Approved unanimously.

The Next Meeting will be on April 22 at 8AM in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Alvin Converse