

TOWN OF PATTEN

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www.pattenmaine.org

Special Town Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 13th, 2023 at 5:30pm

These Minutes are not verbatim.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 5:47pm.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator to preside at said Special Town Meeting.

Ed MacArthur announced that a Moderator could be chosen by a show of hands with a 2/3 vote.

Motion made by Rae Bates to allow a moderator to be chosen by a show of hands. Seconded by Cody Brackett. No discussion heard. **Approved** by majority show of hands.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to nominate Ed MacArthur to act as the moderator for the Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Kevin Noyes. No discussion heard. **Approved** by majority show of hands.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sign a Resolution in support of Wolfden Resource Corporation Pickett Mountain Mine and Associated Facilities.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sign a Resolution in support of Wolfden Resource Corporation Pickett Mountain Mine and Associated Facilities. Seconded by Rebecca Phillips. A letter from Susan Adams was read by Rae Bates. The letter is attached to these Minutes. **Approved 75:46** by written ballot.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Solar Energy Systems Ordinance.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to approve the Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. Seconded by Cody Brackett. No discussion heard. **Approved** by majority show of hands.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.

Letter from Susan Adams

“I am a resident of Patten and would like to express my thoughts on this resolution to support Wolfden Mining and their most recent efforts just north of Patten.

Putting industrial metal mining above our quality of life up here in Patten and the other surrounding communities would be a grave mistake with no thought of our future generations and its potential future residents.

Clean water is life and something that every single one of us needs and deserves.

I grew up downriver of multiple industries placed along the Penobscot River ,who back 100 years ago put industry above quality of life. It got to the point where my parents could not allow us to go swimming and the fishermen disappeared from my beautiful Penobscot Bay. I doubt anyone predicted this sort of future for the bay back then.

I have visited the headwaters of this very section of the Mattawamkeag River that would be at risk with my son. We paddled the ponds and explored below the old stone dam. Isolated and beautiful , wildlife was plentiful, the lakes and rivers clean and clear, definitely class A nurseries for native brook trout and land locked salmon. I urge you to take the time to go see this for yourselves, in case you decide to support this type of mining , so you can describe to your great grandchildren what it “used to be like”. When I heard about Wolfden’s first application, I educated myself to the facts, like when exposed, sulfide deposits or tailings to oxygen and water, form sulfuric acid, they can leach heavy metals like lead, arsenic, and mercury from the surrounding rock. These amazing fisheries could be threatened by this toxic byproduct, known as acid mine drainage. Are we prepared to leave to our grandchildren streams and lakes like this, destroying the fisheries? How will it affect our neighbors downstream ?

I sat in on the very early LUPC discussions when this project was first proposed. I sent them my letter of concern way back then.

I have seen first-hand the bright, orange-colored streams in rural West Virginia, but I never imagined Mainers could risk this happening here.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to discuss Patten with the economic director of the town of Rumford. He urged me to tell you all to really think about the future . Industry should not affect quality of life, but it often and inevitably can if we are not constantly vigilant, and we don’t do our homework. He said several times, “tell them how vital clean water is to their quality of life “and to please take the time to educate themselves on their own, not through Wolfden.”

Please Vote NO for this unnecessary resolution and think about asking the Patten planning board to draft an ordinance to protect our wells and watersheds from an industrial metal mining disaster in the future. If I could be there, I would be voting no to this resolution and am praying that the majority of you consider doing the same.

Thank you,
Susan Adams
Resident of Patten”

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, April 13th, 2023.
Respectfully submitted by,

Laura A. White
Deputy Town Clerk
Town of Patten

Minutes approved on June 13, 2023

<u>Cody A B</u>	Chairman Cody Brackett
<u>Gregg Smallwood</u>	Vice Chair Gregg Smallwood
<u>- Absent -</u>	Dennis Kelly
<u>Rae Bates</u>	Rae Bates
<u>Janice Dancer</u>	Janice Dancer

