

Proposed revisions to Section 16.H, Falmouth Town Council Rules regarding Motion for the Previous Question

Originally changes, in red font, submitted by Karen Farber for the August 10, 2015 Town Council meeting

New language, in blue font, submitted by Russ Anderson for the September 16 Town Council meeting

In the past, there has been some confusion regarding the motion for the previous question (aka calling the question). In an effort to clarify the intent of the rules, the following is proposed.

Section 16 of the Falmouth Town Council Rules, which introduces all of the motions, begins: *“The following motions take precedence in the order provided below. All motions must be seconded, may be debated, amended, reconsidered, and also may be passed by a simple majority of Councilors present, unless otherwise indicated below.”*

The motion for the previous question is identified as “H” and falls between a motion to lay on the table and motion to postpone to a certain time. The text reads as follows:

H. Motion for the Previous Question (Close Debate or Move the Question): A motion for the previous (main) question closes debate and brings the main question or motion to an immediate vote. All debate upon the main question shall be suspended until the motion for the previous question shall be decided, without debate. After the adoption of a motion for the previous question, by a majority vote, the Chairperson shall call for a vote on all pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

The following changes are proposed:

H. Motion for the Previous Question (Close Debate or Move the Question): A motion for the previous (main) question closes debate and brings the main question or motion to an immediate vote. Once the motion for the previous question has been moved and seconded, aAll debate upon the main question shall be suspended until the motion for the previous question shall be decided. There is no, without debate on the motion for the previous question.- After the adoption of a motion for the previous question, which requires a vote of a majority of the councilors present, plus one~~by a majority vote~~, the Chairperson shall call for a vote on all pending -amendments, and then upon the main question.