

**Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
1/3/2017**

In attendance: Committee Members Baltera, Belyea, Coughlin, Curley, Hancock, Haskell, Kelley, LaCroix, MacKay, Sharkansky, Smallwood, Strehle, and Taylor and Town Accountant Nickerson.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Questions from the public on items not on the agenda: None

Approval of Minutes

Members approved the December 20, 2016 minutes with revisions on a 12-0 vote.

Budget Reviews – Human Services

Health Department

After remarks by Executive Health Officer Bruce Capman, Kelley recommended an appropriation of \$332,206, both a level services and a level funded budget. The department's inspection responsibilities include food establishments, septic systems, and tanning salons along with well permits and beach water testing.

Elder Services

After remarks by Elder Services Director Barbara Farnsworth, Smallwood recommended an appropriation of \$239,668. The \$1,700 additional request would cover costs for the department's five-year national accreditation review, a certification held by only seven Massachusetts Councils on Aging. Constrained Senior Center space results in participation limits for some programs.

Health Imperatives

Kelley recommended an appropriation of \$2,700 for this violence intervention and prevention agency.

South Shore Women's Center

Kelley recommended an appropriation of \$3,700 for this organization addressing domestic violence.

Veterans' Services

After remarks by Veterans' Services Director Keith Jermyn, Strehle recommended an appropriation of \$365,379. The State reimburses Hingham 75% of the cost of veterans' benefits but the reimbursement process is often slow. A large number of volunteers support the department's efforts to provide assistance to veterans and their families.

Celebrations

After remarks by Jermyn, Strehle recommended an appropriation of \$11,924. The Veterans' Council takes the lead in providing markers and flags for veterans' graves in Hingham's six private cemeteries.

GAR Hall

After remarks by Jermyn, who was accompanied by GAR Hall Trustees, LaCroix recommended an appropriation of \$14,500. The recent conversion of the building's heating system from oil to natural gas creates some uncertainty in projected heating expenses. Trustees are seeking appropriate opportunities to expand use of the historic building.

Liaison Updates

AdCom Liaisons provided the following updates:

- Unleashed dogs in Bare Cove Park (Curley) – A citizen-initiated draft warrant article would direct the

Selectmen to seek special legislation to change Bare Cove Park regulations currently requiring dogs in Bare Cove Park to be leashed. AdCom members discussed potential issues with the article including whether Town Meeting has the authority to direct the Selectmen in this instance and whether the article includes enforceable criteria. The opinion of Town Counsel concerning the legal issues raised by the draft article has been requested and is expected prior to the AdCom meeting on 1/10. Proponents will attend that meeting so AdCom members may provide early feedback on the article.

- Board of Selectmen (Haskell) – Citizens may propose a warrant article expanding the Board’s size from three to five.
- Recreation (Sharkansky, Strehle) – Recreation had a healthy year financially and is looking forward to managing the pool at the Country Club for the 2017 swimming season. The refurbished Barn will open soon, after securing one more signature for full permitting.

Matters not anticipated within 48 hours: None

Adjournment

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Smallwood
Secretary

Documents:

- Agenda for AdCom Meeting of 1/3/2017
- Draft Minutes from 12/20/2016 AdCom Meeting
- Advisory Committee Meetings/Milestones 2016-2017, 1/3/2017
- AdCom FY 18 Scorecard, 12/20/2016
- Proposed Warrant Article Regarding BCP leashing, 12/21/16
- Town of Hingham General By-Laws, Article 17, Dog Regulations
- Town of Hingham General By-Laws, Article 10, Section 33 Regulation of Activity within Bare Cove Park
- Bare Cove Park Dog Regulations
- Hingham Facilities, Bare Cove Park (website)
- “Dogs must be leashed in Bare Cove Park,” Wicked Local Hingham (article), 10/17/2016
- “Hingham Selectmen hear on-leash, off-leash pros, cons,” Wicked Local Hingham (article), 9/10/2015
- Dover Annual Town Meeting of May 6, 2013-Case #6715. Massachusetts Attorney General letter to Barrie Clough, Dover Town Clerk, 10/8/2013