

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2021

Place: Remote Meeting via Zoom

In attendance: Committee Members Bob Curley, Julie Strehle, Andy McElaney, Libby Claypoole, Dave Anderson, Davalene Cooper, Kristin Dziergowski, Victor Baltera, Tina Sherwood, Alan Macdonald, Evan Sheehan, Brenda Black, Eryn Kelley, Nancy MacDonald, George Danis and Town Accountant Sue Nickerson.

Absent: No One

Agenda: Board of Selectmen

1. *Call meeting to order:* Board of Selectmen Chair Mary Power called the BOS meeting to order at 7:01 pm and read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the Chairman at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.”

Advisory Committee Chair Curley called the AdCom to order at 7:02 pm and adopted the statement read by BOS Chair Power. The AdCom joined the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to hear a presentation by the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPC) on their proposed FY 22 grants as presented in Warrant Article M.

2. *Joint session with the Community Preservation Committee and the Advisory Committee:*

Community Preservation Committee Chair Larry Lindner and committee member Charlie Byrne presented the list of grants approved by the CPC for FY 22, all of which received unanimous support from CPC:

- A grant of \$67,800 to the Trustees of Bare Cove Park for the installation of a bathroom. Mr. Lindner stated that the bathroom would fill a long established need for a restroom in the Park. During discussion it was determined that the facility would need to undergo normal permitting by the Town and would also be subject to approval by the National Park Service. As part of the permitting process the design, hours of operation, and maintenance of the facility would need to be

clearly delineated. There will be a small increase in the BCP Committee annual expense budget to cover maintenance costs;

- A grant of \$700,000 to the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust for its Opportunity Fund. Mr. Lindner stated this grant would be used to help the Trust further its mission to increase affordable housing in Hingham;
- A grant of \$60,000 to the Harbor Development Committee and Bathing Beach Trustees for the development of an inner harbor master plan. Mr. Byrne stated that this grant would allow the Harbor Development Committee, and the Bathing Beach Trustees, to develop a comprehensive plan for the inner harbor. Harbor Development Committee Chair Bill Reardon, and Bathing Beach Trustee Alan Perrault, stressed that this master plan would complement the Town master plan, the Route 3A redesign plan and the downtown development plan;
- A grant of \$15,000 for restoration and upkeep of five Town monuments and markers. Mr. Byrne, and Chief Veterans Service Officer Keith Jerymn, stated that the Town currently has 22 monuments and markers and that many of them are in need of restoration and upkeep. Many of the monuments and markers are dedicated to Town residents who died in service to our country and others are of historical significance to the Town;
- A grant of \$10,000 for CPC administrative expenses. Mr. Lindner noted that CPC has various expense and this grant will be used to pay these expenses.

Mr. Lindner noted that for FY 22, CPC had \$1.649 million dollars to spend and requests for funding totaled \$1.8 million. The CPC elected to spend additional funds to pay down the balance owed on both the Lehner Property and Benjamin Lincoln House. The extra funds for the Lincoln House were necessary to meet the Community Preservation Act statutory requirement for funding Historical Preservation while the Lehner Property additional payment was to shorten the repayment term of the borrowing agreement.

The AdCom recessed at 8:10 pm to reconvene at 8:21 pm to resume its meeting.

Agenda: AdCom

3. Comments from the public: None

4. Warrant Article Hearings:

A – Hannah Lincoln Whiting Fund – Tina Sherwood presented and provided an overview of this Article, Comment, and a favorable recommendation to reappoint Laurel Cosman to the Committee which has charge of the Fund. Ms. Sherwood noted that the Fund is permitted to spend the earnings on the \$15,000 principal and that, in FY 20, spent \$2,600;

B – Assume Liability for DCR – Tina Sherwood presented and provided an overview of this Article, Comment, and a favorable recommendation. This Article calls for the Town to assume liability for damages that may be incurred by work to be performed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and authorizes

the Board of Selectmen to execute and deliver an indemnity bond to the Commonwealth;

C – Report of Various Town Committees – Alan Macdonald presented and provided an overview of this Article, Comment, and a favorable recommendation. This Article recommends that the Town receive the reports of Town Committees, Commissions and the Historian, and recommends that the work of these posts and committees be continued. After some discussion on the exact titles and status of several committees Mr. Macdonald offered to do additional research and report back to the AdCom;

G – Transfer from Stabilization Fund – Kristin Dziergowski presented and provided an overview of this Article, Comment, and a favorable recommendation. This Article provides for the transfer of \$178,836 from the Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reducing the FY22 tax rate.

H - Disbursement of Electric Light Department Receipts – Brenda Black presented and provided an overview of this Article, Comment, and a favorable recommendation. This Article transfers to the Town’s general fund the amount of the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) to be paid to the Town for FY22, and appropriates all other funds collected by HMLP to be expended by the manager at the direction of the Municipal light board. Any unexpended balance at the end of the fiscal year is to be directed to the construction fund of the Light Plant;

L – Acceptance of Easements – Andy McElaney presented and provided an overview of this Article, Comment, and a favorable recommendation. This Article authorizes the Board of Selectmen through April 30, 2022 to accept easements voluntarily granted to the Town for the purposes of streets, sidewalks, or pedestrian walkways, or water, drainage, sewage, or utility facilities.

5. Warrant Article Vote: Article S: Amend General By-laws: Article 14 Advisory Committee: Chair Curley noted that the Board of Selectmen voted 3-0 in favor of the Article. The AdCom voted by roll call voted in favor of the Article 13-0-0 (Member Evan Sheehan was absent during the vote).

6. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of February 4th: The AdCom voted to approve the minutes, with revisions, by a roll call vote of 12-0-1 (Tina Sherwood abstained and Evan Sheehan was absent during the vote).

7. Warrant Articles Update: Chair Curley noted the following:

- The proposed article recognizing Town volunteers has been forwarded to the Attorney General’s office since it affects a Town By-law;
- Article BBB (site plan review) has been pulled;
- The proposed wharf Article might be pulled over concerns raised by the Conservation Commission;

- Chair Curley noted that Julie Strehle has updated the Warrant Article Status Summary to keep track of the review and approval of all Warrant Articles.

8. Liaison Reports:

- Libby Claypoole noted that the Capital Outlay Committee has a \$2.6 million dollar budget with all funds being provided by the tax levy. Ms. Claypoole noted that the Committee has received requests totaling \$2.74 million and that the members are prioritizing requests in the event the budget amount is reduced;
- Dave Anderson noted the ACES sub-committee met on February 10th with the School Committee, School Administration and a number of citizens. Mr. Anderson noted the meeting presented a good exchange of ideas and information. He also noted that the Administration will present a report on student performance at the February 22nd School Committee meeting and that the Committee expects to vote its budget on February 23rd.

9. Discussion of Advisory Committee housekeeping items:

- a. Meeting times: The next scheduled meeting is on February 23rd;
- b. Policies and Procedures Review: Davalene Cooper noted that the working group was drafting updates and has noted that the AdCom Handbook also has areas that require updating;
- c. Town Meeting and related deadlines: No update.

10. Matters not anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting: None

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:33 pm by roll call vote (13-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

George Danis, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed for this Meeting:

Minutes from February 4th Meeting

Warrant Articles and drafty Comments and Recommendations

Approved on February 23, 2021 by roll call vote 13-0-1 (Evan Sheehan was absent during the vote).