

Board of Selectmen

February 11, 2021

Remote meeting via telephone conference call

Present:

- Board of Selectmen: Ms. Mary Power (Chair), Mr. Joseph Fisher and Mr. Bill Ramsey
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator
- Town of Hingham Advisory Committee
- Town of Hingham School Committee

7:00 PM: Call to order

Ms. Power called the meeting to order 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 chair 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.”

Ms. Power asked if anyone was recording the meeting. There were no responses.

Joint Session with the Community Preservation Committee and Advisory Committee to discuss Warrant Article M: Community Preservation Committee

Restroom at Bare Cove Park

Ms. Power welcomed members of the Advisory Committee and Community Preservation Committees. Mr. Larry Lindner, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, presented information on Warrant Article M. He reported that the Community Preservation Committee had voted to approve \$67,800 for a public restroom to be built at Bare Cove Park.

Mr. Ramsey noted that he was in favor of the project. Mr. Fisher asked for information regarding the maintenance associated with the project. Mr. Lindner suggested that maintenance issues be inserted into the grant agreement. There was some discussion regarding winterization, heating, electricity, and customization of the restroom. Mr. Kyle Earlywine of Green Flush restrooms anticipated a cost to the Town of \$.25 per use for pumping fees over the course of a year. He noted that most of the maintenance would be for cleaning. Ms. Claudia Eaton of the Bare Cove Park Committee added that the cost of pumping would be \$200. Town Real Estate Counsel, Susan Murphy advised that the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Park Commissioners, and the national Park Service would be responsible for all the permitting related to this project. Ms. Libby Claypool, Advisory Committee member, asked about security and potential vandalism. Ms. Easton replied that the building could be equipped with a lock that would open at sunrise and close at sunset. The park ranger would also clean the restroom daily, with back-up help on his days off. Mr. Keith Jermyn, 104 Kilby Street, member of the Commission on Disabilities, asked if the restroom would be handicap accessible. Ms. Easton noted that the restroom would be ADA approved. Ms. Patti Coyle, 3 Accord Lane, asked for the location of the

proposed restroom. Mr. Lindner advised that it would be located near the green dock building. He also noted that the vote by the Community Preservation Committee to advance this project was unanimous.

Hingham Affordable Housing Trust

Mr. Lindner reported that the CPC voted unanimously to recommend \$700,000 to the Trust. He told the Board that the Trust has plans to use some funds to make properties that they already own habitable. He said that the CPC was very happy to be able to accommodate the request by the Affordable Housing Trust. There was support from the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee for the funding of the Affordable Housing Trust. Mr. Tim White, 35 Kimball Beach Road, Hingham Affordable Housing Trust, thanked the CPC and the Town of Hingham for their efforts. Ms. Meghan Burh, 46 Main Street, member of the Community Preservation Committee, expressed her appreciation for the funding.

Inner Harbor Master Plan

Mr. Charlie Byrne, member of the CPC, reported that the committee voted unanimously to recommend an amount of \$16,000 to fund a Master Plan for the Inner Harbor. He reported that the Master Plan would generate ideas for ways to connect different parts of the harbor, such as the new Bathhouse, the new walkway and wharves. The Master Plan would also create ideas for way to improve public access to the waterfront, with the ultimate goal of developing a vision for sustainable recreation activities and infrastructure along the harbor. Mr. Fisher asked for clarification of how this Master Plan study would differ from the ongoing MAPC Downtown and Harbor Visioning Study. Mr. Bill Reardon, Chair of the Harbor Development Committee, explained that the Inner Harbor Master Plan is intended to work with and build upon the Harbormaster's Plan, the plan for the Rt. 3A corridor, and the MAPC study. He further explained that the MAPC plan is intended to improve the connection between the downtown and the harbor as opposed to the Inner Harbor Master Plan, which focuses on the public's activities at the harbor. He said that the Inner Harbor Master Plan would also address issues of landscaping, lighting, shade structures, and other similar items. The intent is to compliment the other plan and not to duplicate efforts.

Restoration and Repair of Monuments and Memorials

Mr. Charlie Byrne presented. He reported that the CPC unanimously voted to recommend a \$15,000 grant that would pay for the cleaning and restoration of 5 Veteran's memorials in Town, including the following:

- Three bronze memorial plaques
 - Curtis Chase
 - Memorial plaque at Veterans Park
 - William H. Newey memorial
- One granite façade honoring two Marine canines
- One bronze plaque affixed to a historic glacier

The Board of Selectmen and the Chair of the Advisory Committee supported this Article.

Administration

Mr. Larry Lindner explained that the committee unanimously voted to set aside \$10,000 for Administrative costs such as taking minutes of meetings and other bills.

8:08 PM: The Advisory Committee recessed and reconvened to their own meeting.

2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Discussion**Article W: Waterways Fund Transfer**

Harbormaster Corson explained that this Article would allow for the transfer of some ancillary FY21 harbor revenues into the Waterways Fund. These revenues come, not from mooring permits, but from fines, parking fees, vessel excise tax, and other harbor-related fees. He said that these funds help contribute to dredging projects, Capital expenses, and other Waterways improvements. Mr. Corson approximated the revenues to be as follows:

- \$40,000 for parking fees
- \$30,000 for vessel excise tax
- \$20,000 for other ancillary fees

Mr. Ramsey asked for some information on dredging timeframes. Mr. Corson said that the Town typically dredges the inner harbor every 10 years. Ms. Power appreciated that money was being saved for dredging.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article W. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Article O: Climate Action Planning Study Funds and Article P: Climate Action Planning Committee

Mr. Mayo gave some information on the creation of Hingham's Climate Action Planning effort, led by Brad Moyer. Mr. Mayo explained that Article P is asking Town Meeting to establish a planning committee for this effort and Article O is asking for funds to engage a consultant to perform a Climate Action Plan study. Mr. Fisher expressed some concerns about the large size of the proposed committee. Mr. Brad Moyer explained that his group has decided to change the number of committee members from 12 to 11. He felt that the large number of members would represent the municipal, business, and residential sectors of Hingham. He reported that HMLP has generously offered to help fund their efforts, though he did not have an amount yet. He added that they would not ask for funds from the Town in excess of \$50,000. There was some additional discussion of the target date of 2040 for carbon neutrality. Mr. Ramsey expressed thanks to HMLP for helping with this effort. There was some lingering concerns from the Board on the challenges that may come with the large size of the committee, but was happy to support the Articles. Ms. Power noted that the number of members could be changed in the recommended motion. She also felt that the size of the committee would be beneficial when interacting with various permitting boards.

Mr. John Borger, 53 Lafayette Avenue, commented that Concord, MA has been a leader with their Climate Action Plan and attributed its success to having a Director of Sustainability. He questioned the potential success of the Climate Action Plan without a Town official dedicated to its success. Mr. Moyer noted that one of the key recommendations of Concord's plan was that the Town hire an Energy Director. There was additional discussion of whether hiring a position such as that to guide the implementation of recommendations of the Climate Action Study. Ms. Power suggested that any such recommendation might be part of the study.

Ms. Laura Burns, 479 Main Street, thanked the Board for taking on this project and extended help from Hingham Net Zero in implementing the plan.

Ms. Joanne Hileman, 319 Lincoln Street, member of Hingham Net Zero, thanked the Board for supporting Warrant Articles O and P. Ms. Power thanked Hingham Net Zero for their support.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article O. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article P, revised to show a membership of 11 members, not to include a member of the Weir River Estuary Committee, as discussed at this evenings meeting. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Article Y: HMLP Proposed Transmission and Substation Project

Mr. Paul Heanue, HMLP, reported that the Town currently receives energy from two 15,000-volt transmission lines on a set of common structures, immediately adjacent to the Greenbush train station. In response to a storm that had damaged one of the Eversource transmission lines, one of those lines was no longer in service. After consulting with Town officials, consultants and lawyers, it was decided to install another Eversource transmission line to an additional substation in Hingham, so that there would be two back up lines. Ms. Power clarified that this Article would allow the Town of Hingham to borrow money on behalf of HMLP to allow the project to be completed and that the ratepayers would pay for the costs associated with the borrowing. He noted that HMLP is not allowed to borrow money; the Town must do it on their behalf. Mr. Heanue further explained that the Town of Hingham would turn over some land to HMLP at 0 Hobart Street, on which the substation would be located. Mr. Heanue noted that the land is approximately one acre. He also said that the structure would look like a house that would blend into the neighborhood. Real Estate Counsel, Susan Murphy shared a map of the location and advised that the transfer would require a Special Permit A, a site plan review and the notification of abutters. There was additional discussion regarding possible conservation concerns and regulations as they relate to an enterprise funds. She noted that there would be no transfer of actual property, just the transfer of care and control of the property. Mr. Heanue estimated that the project would cost \$50-\$60 million. Ms. Power asked if there would be any abutter notification leading up to Town Meeting, aimed at addressing concerns ahead of time. Mr. Fisher encouraged outreach to neighbors prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. Clayton Handleman, 1083 Main Street, commented. It was clarified that the proposed substation would be redundant and that the wires would run underground, opposed to the wires for the current substation, which are overhead.

Public Comment

Ms. Power stated, “The Board of Selectmen has set aside up to 15 minutes for public comment for items not on the Board’s agenda, but within the purview of the Board of Selectmen, during which time we typically follow the guidelines of open meeting. We encourage speakers to present remarks in a respectful manner and not to indulge in personalities. The Public Comment time is not a period of debate for the Board of Selectmen and the Board is neither adopting nor endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period.”

There were no comments from the public

Selectmen/Town Administrator Reports

Nothing to report

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Documents: A complete meeting packet of supporting documentation is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen’s office