

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – March 15, 2022

Remote Meeting via Zoom

In Attendance: J. Strehle, G. Danis, N. MacDonald, D. Anderson, B. Black, D. Cooper, R. Curley, K. Dziergowski, M. Goulet, C. Kirk, A. Macdonald, A. McElaney, S. Melia, T. Sherwood, Town Accountant S. Nickerson.

Absent: E. Sheehan

1. Call Meeting to Order in Joint Session with the Select Board: Discussion of 2022

Warrant Articles:

Article CCC: Zoning By-law: Special Permits and Site Plan Review Procedures

At 7:00pm Select Board Chair Joe Fisher called the Select Board 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 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.”

AdCom Chair Strehle called the Advisory Committee to order at 7:01pm and adopted the statement above.

Article CCC: Zoning By-law: Special Permits and Site Plan Review Procedures

Article DDD: Zoning By-law: Citizens Petition re: Tree Preservation

Kevin Ellis, Chair of the Planning Board, and Community Planning Director Emily Wentworth presented an overview of these two Articles. There was general discussion regarding the consequences for residents and the impact on other permitting boards. Mr. Fisher noted that he offers his support of this Article but that the Select Board does not vote on Articles submitted by the Planning Board. Priya Howell (26 Del Prete), who submitted Article DDD as a Citizen’s Petition, expressed her belief that Article CCC is a great first step and that Article DDD will be withdrawn as most of its provisions were put into Article CCC; she hopes to submit a new Article next year that creates a Tree Fund and will work with the Planning Board and others on this next step.

2. At the conclusion of the Joint Session, the Advisory Committee was recessed and resumed its regular meeting

Chair Strehle reconvened the meeting at 7:31

3. Comments from the Public Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

None

4. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 8 and March 10, 2022

Meeting minutes from March 8, 2022, were approved by roll call vote, 13-0.

Meeting minutes from March 10, 2022, were approved by roll call vote, 12-0.

5. Warrant Article Hearings Continued and Potential Votes

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Article CCC: Zoning By-law: Special Permits and Site Plan Review Procedures

Mr. McElaney, Mr. Goulet, and Ms. Black prepared the comment for this Article; Mr. McElaney gave an overview of the Article. The recommended motion was approved by roll call vote, 13-0.

Article DDD: Zoning By-law: Citizens Petition re: Tree Preservation

Ms. Black provided an overview of this Article; she noted that most of the provisions of this Article were incorporated into Article CCC except for the creation of a Tree Bank; it is expected that the Tree Bank will be on the Warrant next year. Ms. Black noted that as the Article has not yet been withdrawn, AdCom needs to vote on the current recommended motion. The recommended motion of 'no action' was approved by roll call vote, 13-0.

Article F: Budgets

Chair Strehle presented updates to the five-year forecast, noting that currently the budget uses combined one-time funds of \$3,737,509, made up of ARPA funds (\$1,383,115), ARPA Plymouth County funds (\$473,502), ESSER funds (TBD, estimated at \$400,000), and fund balance (\$1,480,892); the use of unassigned fund balance could increase to \$1,880,892; the actual amount is not material for the budget vote, nor would it change the recommended motion. There was general discussion of the budget including unused funds available in the current school budget; the Sustainability coordinator which is now being proposed as a contract position making it an expense; the Town's Financial Policy's guidance as it relates to the use of Federal and State funds; and the Town's commitment to Net Zero. Chair Strehle noted that by law the Town must present a balanced budget to Town Meeting; the budget being voted tonight is a level services budget; she noted that last year the Town used \$5mm of fund balance to balance the FY22 budget and the FY23 budget proposes to use an additional \$1.7mm. She noted that there is general consensus that the Town will need to pass an operational override next year as the FY23 budget discussion will begin with a \$5.8MM deficit with no additions to this year's budget.

The recommended motion for the base budget was approved by roll call vote, 13-0.

An additional expense request from the Select Board for \$48,000 for a sustainability coordinator contract position was approved, 10-3; Mr. Anderson, Mr. Macdonald, and Ms. Krik recorded in opposition; the total expense budget for the Select Board (\$164,340) was approved, 10-3; Mr. Anderson, Mr. Macdonald, and Ms. Kirk recorded in opposition.

An additional one-time expense request from the Town Clerk in the Elections budget of \$1,875 for a poll pad to support the newly added voting precinct recommendation was approved, 11-2; the total expense budget for Elections of \$28,540 was approved 11-2; Mr. Macdonald and Ms. Kirk recorded in opposition.

6. Warrant Process Update

Chair Strehle noted that all Articles must be submitted to the Town for review by March 17th.

7. Discussion of Advisory Committee Housekeeping Items

- AdCom's next meeting will be April 12th
- The Town Meeting preparation meeting with the Moderator is April 24th
- Town Meeting will be Saturday April 30th

8. Matters not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting

None.

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9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by roll call vote at 8:55, 13-0.

Documents Distributed for this Meeting

- Agenda
- Community Correspondence
- Draft Warrant Articles CCC, DDD
- Draft meeting minutes for March 08 and 10
- Updated WASS
- Updated Budget Spreadsheets

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy MacDonald
Advisory Committee Secretary

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