

# Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date: May 25, 2021**

**Place: Remote Meeting via Zoom**

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

***Absent:*** Tina Sherwood.

1. ***Call meeting to order:*** Chair Curley called the 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.

2. ***Comments from the public on items not on the agenda:*** None

3. ***Debriefing Re: Town Meeting- Motions and Amendments:***

Chair Curley led the AdCom in a review and discussion of the May 8, 2021 Town Meeting. Mr. Curley first congratulated the AdCom for their hard work and diligence and noted that 100% of the Committee's recommendations had been approved by Town Meeting.

The AdCom then discussed the two Motions to Amend Articles that rose from the floor at Town Meeting. Chair Curley initiated a discussion on whether guidance suggesting that opponents of an Article consider meeting with the proponents (or AdCom liaison) prior to Town Meeting might resolve any issues or concerns prior to Town Meeting. The AdCom was unanimous that any action considered must not be perceived as an effort to limit discussion or be perceived as an effort to prevent any possible Motion to Amend. Chair Curley thanked the AdCom and stated that he would inform Town Moderator Michael Puzo of our discussion and concerns.

4. ***Goals and Objectives for FY 22:***

Chair Curley identified a number of key items for FY 22. These items include:

- a) Financial Policy Review: Updated every three years per AdCom policy;
- b) Advisory Committee Handbook: Reviewed annually;
- c) Long term Capital Plan: The Town has long discussed the need for a comprehensive Capital needs plan and, in FY 21, received a report on best practices from the Harvard School of Government. Additionally, Town Meeting 2020 authorized a Capital Facilities Study and information from this Study would be critical to the development of a Long term Capital Plan;
- d) Override study group: The AdCom recognized the need for a study but felt that the name needed to change to more broadly reflect the need to develop a long term financial and services plan. Davalene Cooper suggested the name Sustainable Budget Planning Group;
- e) Remote versus in-person meetings: AdCom members felt that an objective for FY 22 would be to maintain the level of citizen involvement in Committee meetings experienced during FY 21 and that a combination of in-person and a remote option should be strongly considered provided the State authorizes continuation of this practice.

5. ***Review and approval of Minutes from Meeting of May 4, 2021***: The Minutes were approved, with edits, by a roll call vote of 13-0-0.

#### 6. ***Liaison Reports***:

- a) Davalene Cooper noted that the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust would like to meet with the AdCom between July and September to present their required annual financial report;
- b) Andy McElaney updated the AdCom on two committees:
  - o The Masterplan report was still in the editing process and is expected to be presented to the Planning Board (PB) at the June 7, 2021 PB meeting;
  - o The tree preservation study group presented at the May 24, 2021 PB meeting. Issues discussed included the possible incremental cost for the services of an arborist and a possible Warrant Article at the 2022 Town Meeting.

#### 7. ***Election of AdCom Officers for FY22***:

The AdCom voted the following Officers for FY 22 by roll call vote of 13-0-0 (Tina Sherwood was absent):

- o Chair: Julie Strehle (Nominated by Dave Anderson);
- o Vice Chair: George Danis (Nominated by Julie Strehle);
- o Secretary: Nancy MacDonald (Nominated by George Danis).

8. ***Discussion of Advisory Committee housekeeping items***: Chair Curley noted that the AdCom would need to meet in late June to finalize inter and intra departmental

transfers, the Reserve Fund transfer, and to authorize Julie Strehle to authorize emergency transfers on a temporary basis.

**9. *Matters not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting:***

Libby Claypoole suggested that the AdCom pursue a paid note taker for FY 22 and beyond. Ms. Claypoole suggested that this action would then allow the AdCom Secretary an opportunity to more fully participate in the Warrant Article process since they would not be responsible for note taking. The AdCom members were in support of this suggestion and Chair Curley (and vice Chair Strehle) agreed to discuss it with the Town Administrator.

10. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 8:41 pm approved by roll call vote of 13-0-0 (Tina Sherwood was absent).

Respectfully submitted,

George Danis, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed for this Meeting:

- Agenda;
- May 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

Approved with revisions on 06/29/2021 by roll call vote 10-0-1 (Tina Sherwood abstained; Alan Macdonald, Nancy MacDonald and Evan Sheehan were absent for the vote)