

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2021

7:00 PM

* VIRTUAL MEETING *

Present: Christi Andersen (Chair), Christine Russell (Vice-Chair), Roland Bourdon, Jason Cole, Mike Majors, Adam Nolde, Steve Noone, David Wellinghoff and Sahana Purohit

Ms. Andersen called the meeting to order via a virtual meeting with no Committee members in physical attendance and broadcasted via Zoom and ActonTV.

1. Citizen's Concerns

Tom Gillispie, Chair of the Dog Park Committee, let the members know he was available if there are any questions.

Ms. Purohit provided information regarding the League of Woman Voters upcoming webinar.

2. Dog Park Warrant Article

Presentation by Mr. Post on behalf of a group of abutters on Isaac Davis Way. Mr. Post reviewed the history of the dog park proposal at the Main St. location and the separate 2011 easement agreement the Isaac Way neighborhood has on the parcel and their legal use of such easement. The abutters have concerns over the financial impacts, noise, legal rights, traffic and liability issues.

Committee members questioned who has legal authority over the parcel and the easement. Mr. Majors expressed dismay that the dog park location might not be the highest and best use of the parcel, especially given the opposition of the neighbors. The financial risk related to the legal ownership versus future legal action was raised by multiple members. Mr. Post believes the neighbors could be held liable for injuries or damage that occurs on the easement.

Mr. Majors moved to Recommend. Ms. Russell seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – abstain
Mr. Cole – abstain
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – abstain
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - nay

The Committee voted 5-1-3, the motion carried

3. Wastewater Treatment System Rehab

Presentation by Mr. Martin, Select board member, and Mr. Troidl of Woodard and Curran on the rehabilitation of the existing wastewater treatment facility. The scope and cost of the project were discussed. Total project cost is \$6.2m with \$1.7m in funding from sources other than borrowing through the State revolving fund. Additional stimulus money may be available if approved and shovel ready. Committee members expressed concern at using the same firm for operating the plant as well as the feasibility study and possible construction. Mr. Martin and Mr. Troidl replied that the construction would go out to bid, although there are few competitors in the wastewater facility industry.

Clarification was given that the rehabilitation needs to be done to maintain compliance with DEP discharge capacity. Mr. Martin explained that the 230 users of the future Powder Mill place project would help support the debt service payments once online.

Mr. Noone moved to recommend. Ms. Russell seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

- Ms. Andersen – aye
- Ms. Russell – aye
- Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
- Mr. Cole – aye
- Mr. Majors - aye
- Mr. Bourdon – aye
- Ms. Purohit – aye
- Mr. Noone – aye
- Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

4. Town Operating Budget

Mr. Barrett reported that the North Acton Fire Station debt service was double counted in error on the ALG plan resulting in an additional \$454,000 available. Options for the use of such funds were given, such as:

- Backfill the local receipt deficit, if needed.
- Reduce reserve use.
- Reduce taxpayer burden.

ALG will meet soon to discuss the use and Finance Committee members expressed the desire to provide taxpayer relief, resulting in up to \$60 per bill per year.

Mr. Noone moved to direct ALG to use the additional funds to reduce the tax levy. Ms. Andersen seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

5. Warrant Article Review

Brief overviews of the articles and/or the draft warrant article summary were given for each article prior to voting.

Minuteman Budget

Mr. Majors moved to recommend the article. Ms. Russell seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

CPC Article

Mr. Bourdon moved to recommend the article. Ms. Russell seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye

Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

Stonefield Farm Agricultural Preservation Restriction Article

Mr. Bourdon emphasized that this article is not the purchase of the parcel but rather an agricultural/conservation restriction in perpetuity.

Mr. Bourdon moved to recommend the article. Ms. Russell seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – abstain
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 8-0-1, the motion carried

Planning Board Articles, 2 articles

Comments were made regarding the committees need to vote due to the lack of financial impact of the articles.

Amend Town Charter – Electing Planning Board Members

Ms. Purohit moved to make no recommendation on the article. Mr. Noone seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

Non-Binding Resolution – Electing Planning Board Members

Ms. Purohit moved to make no recommendation on the article. Mr. Noone seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

- Ms. Andersen – aye
- Ms. Russell – aye
- Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
- Mr. Cole – aye
- Mr. Majors - aye
- Mr. Bourdon – aye
- Ms. Purohit – aye
- Mr. Noone – aye
- Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

Fossil Fuel Articles, 2 articles

Mr. Cole believes recommending such article would impede owners’ rights and interfere regular market conditions. Other members agreed and Mr. Wellinghoff believes that it does not encourage commercial growth within the town.

Home Rule Petition – Building with Clean Energy to Regulate Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Mr. Cole moved to Not Recommend the article. Mr. Wellinghoff seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

- Ms. Andersen – nay
- Ms. Russell – aye
- Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
- Mr. Cole – aye
- Mr. Majors - aye
- Mr. Bourdon – aye
- Ms. Purohit – nay
- Mr. Noone – aye
- Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 7-2, the motion carried

Amend General Bylaws – Regulation of Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Mr. Noone moved to Not Recommend the article. Mr. Cole seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

- Ms. Andersen – nay
- Ms. Russell – aye

Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

Budget Transfer

Mr. Noone moved to Recommend the article. Mr. Majors seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – nay
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

ABRSD Budget

Ms. Russell moved to Recommend the article. Mr. Cole seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried

6. Finance Committee Business

Ms. Russell moved to accept meeting minutes of May 11, 2021. Mr. Bourdon seconded. Mr. Nodle called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried.

Ms. Purohit moved to adjourn. Mr. Bourdon seconded. Mr. Nolde called the roll:

Ms. Andersen – aye
Ms. Russell – aye
Mr. Wellinghoff – aye
Mr. Cole – aye
Mr. Majors - aye
Mr. Bourdon – aye
Ms. Purohit – aye
Mr. Noone – aye
Mr. Nolde - aye

The Committee voted 9-0, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned

YouTube link to recording

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNAY56hF5Os>

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Presentation
- GIS Map of 348 -352 Main St.
- Draft Warrant