



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee

550 Hanover Street

Hanover, MA 02339

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – 6 PM

Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

Committee Attendees

Ted Hickey, Chairman

Emmanuel Dockter

Sandy Hayes

Steve Kmito

Joan Port-Farwell

Gavin Little-Gill

Steven Freedman

Jim Hoyes

Gerry O'Hearn

Other Attendees

Joe Colangelo, Town Manager

Ann Lee, CDMI Director

Chelsea Stevens, Finance Director

Virginia Johnson, Library Director

Library Board of Trustees - Emily Blampied and Jeanne Cianciola

Community Preservation Committee - William Scarpelli, Steven Louko and Judy Grecco

Ted called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with all members present.

Ted suggested the review of minutes be moved to the next meeting, because of the number of presenters for the evening. Ted also suggested that CPC go first. There were no objections.

Chairman Bill Sharpelli and committee members of the CPC reviewed 5 warrant articles.

Article 20 - Sylvester and Salmond Schools Renovation and Feasibility Consultation

There was a lengthy discussion between CPC and Advisory. There was discussion around the BOS RFP and the necessity of this article. There was concern around the \$275,000 use for the study. There was discussion about how Sylvester is currently being used and kept in working order. CPC indicated that they had the School Committee endorsement and they will go and be sure they have that endorsement

Article 21 - Sylvester Field Conservation Restriction

To appropriate \$250,000 U.S. dollars, from the Town's Community Preservation Fund (CPF) "to purchase a MGL Chapter 184, §31-33 Conservation Restriction for a 10.15 acre field between Washington Street and Third Herring Brook that will prevent development of the property in perpetuity."

Article 22 - Carriage & Sleigh Restoration

To appropriate \$10,000 U.S. dollars from the Town's Community Preservation Fund (CPF) to "fully restore the carriage and sleigh which have deteriorated over the past twenty-five years which will preserve these rare vehicles for the future."

Article 23 - Rails to Trail Development Phase 1

To appropriate \$250,000 U.S. dollars, from the Town's Community Preservation Fund (CPF) "for the first phase of Rails to Trails project extending the Rockland Rail Trail through West Hanover to the Drinkwater River Railroad bridge."

There is grant money, but a down payment is needed as seed money.

There was discussion about an entrance to Ellis Field and a Jeffrey Poirier from Park and Rec didn't see any problem with an entrance.

Article 24 - Community Preservation Revenues

To appropriate 10% of funds collected from Fiscal Years 2018, 2019 and 2020 from the Community Housing Reserve Fund to be transferred to the Hanover Affordable Housing Trust to provide for the preservation of affordable housing in Hanover. The Advisory Committee questioned incoming fees and inspections and asked how they evaluate fees and changes.

Review of Library Budget – Virginia Johnson, Library Director shared the library budget. The changes in labor were attributed to furlough, retirement and frozen position. There were very few questions for Ginny.

Review of CDMI Budget – Ann Lee, CDMI Director shared the CDMI budget. Staffing level change is a need for an additional part-time position from a per diem administrative position part-time, this will be revenue neutral. Salary changes for the town planner and cross training for staff in the department.

CDMI Warrant Articles

Article 28 – 6.700 Flood Plain District

Amend Flood Plain Zoning Bylaw – 6.700 Flood Plain District – it was brought to our attention that in order for the bylaw or ordinance to be clearly understood, it is necessary to define technical terms or key words. An understanding of these terms is a prerequisite to effective administration of the floodplain management bylaw or ordinance. Per FEMA Region I, these additional definitions must be included in local bylaws or ordinances.

Article 33 – Building Fee Changes – Building fees have not been changed since 2010. There was a general question asked what was the process used to evaluate fees and changes. Ann shared that they don't have a process.

Review of Finance Budget – Chelsea Stevens, Finance Director and Town Account shared the Finance Department budget. There have been a couple of promotions created with the change in Finance Director. Assistant Town Account to Senior Town Account; Assistant Treasurer to Treasurer; Senior Deputy Collector to Collector. There is cross-training currently going on in the department. We will be hiring a part-time Assistant Town Clerk and a part-time Assistant Town Accountant. Labor is down by 1 full-time equivalent. Staff are wearing multiple hats. The collector is certified and the Treasurer will be getting certified. There were questions on direct deposit and bringing payroll back in-house. Contracts do not allow us to demand direct deposit. There is a review of payroll system and potential of bringing it back in-house.

There was a general question from an Advisory member – is there anything we should be updated on at some of our upcoming meetings?

Articles 5 & 6 - Salaries elected officials

Article 7 – Amend General Bylaws – Town Clerk's Business Hours - Petition Article

Article 11 – Transfer Station – Fee Change

Article 19 – New Fire Station

Joe shared that a 2nd stimulus check will be sent directly to us for \$1.4 million. \$2.8 million is also earmarked, but goes through Plymouth County and then we get our share.

There is a new Special Town Meeting Warrant to cover COVID expenses contingent upon receipt of funds from FEMA and from School stimulus.

A motion was made to adjourn that was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.