

**Advisory Committee
Town of Hanover
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339**

Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2012

Committee Attendees: Brian Barthelmes, Florence Grady, David Bond, John O’Leary, Jerry O’Hearn, Helen Graves, Joan Young, Jim Van Arsdale

Absent: Wayne Moores

Others: Troy Clarkson, Town Manager, Janine Smith, Senior Town Accountant, Libby Corbo, School Committee Chairman, Will Mariner, School Oversight Committee & School Committee, Sandy Leitao, School Oversight Committee Chairman & Joan Port Farwell, School Oversight Committee member

Brian Barthelmes, Advisory Committee Chairman, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Advisory Committee Hearing Room at Town Hall.

School Committee Update:

Libby Corbo, School Committee Chairman, provided an update on the negotiated three-year Hanover Schools teachers’ contract. She distributed a handout which outlined three other contract negotiation scenarios. Libby also provided an update on proposed changes to School Department staffing for FY2014, and the search for a new Superintendent of Schools.

FY2014 Budget Update: Town Manager Troy Clarkson gave an overview of the FY2014 budget process. It was discussed that capital requests for building repairs were not included in the list of FY2014 capital requests along with equipment and vehicles, but would be submitted through Town Meeting articles.

Forge Pond Park: Remaining Chapter 90 funds will be used for the paving of the walking trails in Forge Pond Park. Daniel Pallotta will be overseeing the completion of this project including the snack bar and gazebo. A schedule will be determined for the opening and closing of the gate at the entrance to the park. It is anticipated that a revolving fund will be created to pay for park maintenance expenses. Helen Graves suggested that a sign, which identifies the park, be installed at the entrance to the park.

Senior Town Accountant: Janine Smith, the newly hired Senior Town Accountant gave an update on some of the initiatives she is working on within her department. CPC funds and outstanding debt were also discussed.

School Oversight Committee Update:

Sandy Leitao, Chairman of the School Oversight Committee, gave an update on the Committee’s progress to date. The five member committee is comprised of one member of the School Committee member, Board of Selectmen, Hanover Students First, and two citizens at large.

The Committee received several responses to their RFP for an operational and efficiency evaluation for the Hanover Public Schools. The two finalists from the RFP were interviewed. The Abrahams group was selected to work with the School Oversight Committee. The Abrahams group is currently collecting data from the Superintendent's Office. They are also gathering data from teachers and staff through surveys and focus groups. The response rate from teachers has been low thus far. The first focus group with staff will be held next week. 23 key personnel from the Schools will also be interviewed about redundancies and efficiencies. The Committee hopes to receive an interim report from The Abrahams group in April. A report at the May 2013 Town Meeting is anticipated.

Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule:

The Committee reviewed a tentative meeting schedule for the next five months. Department Head budget hearings with the Advisory Committee will be scheduled for the month of February.

Meeting Minutes: The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes of November 5, 2012. Florence Grady made a motion to accept the Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 19, 2012 as written. Joan Young seconded the motion, and it was so voted unanimously.

Helen Graves made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Jerry O'Hearn seconded the motion and it was so voted unanimously.

Prepared by: Audrey Barresi, Advisory Committee Secretary