

Hanover Advisory Committee
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 25, 2015 7:00pm

Opening:

The meeting was opened at 7:03 p.m. by Chris Martin, Chairman.

Committee Attendees:

Chris Martin
Donald White
Jerry O’Hearn
Wayne Moores
Joan Port-Farwell

Edward Hickey
Helen Graves
Sandra Hayes
Angela Blanchard

Other Attendees:

Ms. Janine Smith, Director of Municipal Finance
Mr. Walter Sweeney, Hanover Police Chief
Ms. Catherine Harder-Bernier, Hanover Town Clerk
Mr. Mike Tivnan, Chair of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Diane Campbell, Chair of Community Preservation Committee
Ms. Mary Dunn, Member of Community Preservation Committee
Mr. Jonathan Chu, Member of Community Preservation Committee
Mr. Peter Matchak, Hanover Town Planner
Ms. Heather Lamplough, Hanover Associate Town Planner
Mr. Harry Dunn, Chairman Hanover Selectman
Mr. Robert O’Rourke, Hanover Selectman
Mr. Harold Thomas, Co-Chair of Open Space Committee
Mr. Roger Leslie, Council of Aging, Board of Overseers Stetson House
Ms. Mary Ann Brink

Review of Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Joan Port-Farwell made a motion to accept the minutes. Helen Graves seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion with Walter Sweeney, Hanover Police Chief

Hanover Police Chief Walter Sweeney spoke with the Committee regarding the police department budget line item requesting a new officer to serve as the Hanover School Resource Officer. Chief Sweeney addressed the Committee's questions regarding this new position in Hanover. He stated that the School Resource Officer will have a well-defined role within the school. The officer will spend time in each of the schools. The estimated breakout of time was 50 percent at the high school, 30 percent at the middle school and the remaining 20 percent at the elementary schools. The officer will attend training with The National Association of School Resource Officers. A detailed job description will come out of negotiations with the police union once the article has been approved at Town Meeting.

Chief Sweeney also discussed Article 57, Noise Control Bylaw with the committee. With an estimated 35 to 40 noise complaints last year, Chief Sweeney stated that this new bylaw will give the Hanover Police Department a way to enforce restrictions on noise within the town.

Discussion with Mike Tivnan, Chair of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Tivnan discussed with the Committee the efforts being put forth to bring in revenue for the maintenance of Forge Park. Maintenance for the park is currently \$68,000 annually. Mr. Tivnan stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee along with HYAA are meeting with groups interested in holding tournaments at Forge Park. Soccer, lacrosse, baseball, softball as well as obstacle and fitness challenges are all being considered. Mr. Tivnan hopes to have some signed agreements soon. Donald White asked how Forge Park is being marketed for these events. Mr. Tivnan stated that Lauren Devine, Recreation Administrator, is using social media and her contacts to reach out to organizations that have run successful events in other neighboring towns. Helen Graves suggested that a website be set up for Forge Park. Ted Hickey suggested that if the Parks and Recreation Committee sponsors an event at Forge Park, possibly they should pay a fee into the fund for maintenance as well.

Chris Martin inquired regarding Mr. Tivnan's opinion of Article 50, Dog Park. Mr. Tivnan stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee met with the petitioners of Article 50 and that they were not in favor of the article. The Parks and Recreation Committee is not interested in utilizing any of their parks for this purpose.

Discussion with Diane Campbell, Chair of Community Preservation Committee

Ms. Campbell discussed the various articles The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has on the warrant this year.

Article 39 – Affordable Housing Trust. The transfer of \$100,000 to the Hanover Affordable House Trust.

Article 40 – Veterans Honor Garden. Ms. Campbell explained that the area would be cleaned up. The current Girl Scouts tree would be incorporated into the plan. A clock would be erected with some basic landscaping and granite borders. The CPC is in favor of the proposal. The Hanover Fire Department had no safety concerns with the plan.

Article 41 – Town Hall Restoration. Ms. Campbell stated that the original estimate was too high. Ms. Campbell gave a brief description of what the current plan includes. Ted Hickey stated that he has concerns that not all the required work is being done with the current plan.

Article 42 – First Congregational Church – Windows. Ms. Campbell stated that the windows being replaced are the original windows and that the church is also raising funds to contribute to the project. Donald White stated that the church is a very important part of the historic district of Hanover.

Article 43 – Restore Horse Drawn Fire Wagon. Roger Leslie stated that the horse drawn fire wagon is a wonderful part of Hanover’s history. It is not a large sum of money and it only requires some repair and paint. It would be nice to be able to display and use the wagon at events such as Hanover Day.

Article 44 – Veteran’s Database. Mary Ann Brink stated that collecting the oral histories of our service men and women is important for future generation.

The Committee discussed with Ms. Campbell, and her fellow committee members, the importance of planning for the needs of the town when considering CPC spending. The Committee would like the CPC to produce a plan for future spending. In the past a 5 year plan was followed. The Committee suggested a 1 to 3 year plan instead. Ted Hickey stated that there needs to be more prioritizing of projects based on the needs of the town. Chris Martin stated that he would like the CPC to have a proposed plan for the Advisory Committee to review by October of this year if possible.

Discussion with Catherine Harder-Bernier, Hanover Town Clerk

Ms. Harder-Bernier gave a presentation to the Committee detailing the “accomplishments and milestones” of the Hanover Town Clerk’s Office from March 2014 to March 2015. The presentation touched on many important functions of the Town Clerk’s Office including elections, census, dog licenses, website updates, open meeting law, etc. Ms. Harder-Bernier spoke about Article 55 – Dog License Late Fees, explaining that by reducing the fee, she hopes to encourage more residents to license their dogs. Chris Martin asked Ms. Harder-Bernier’s opinion on Article 50 – Dog Park. She stated that she was not inclined to favor it. Ms. Harder-Bernier presented the Committee with figures for other south shore Town Clerk’s annual salaries. She would like the Committee to consider an increase in her salary and proposed the increase be spread out over a 3 year period. Chris Martin stated that the Committee would certainly consider her request. Joan Port-Farwell voiced her support of Ms. Harder-Bernier. A brief discussion was had regarding the voting machines needing replacement. Ms. Harder-Bernier is planning to request replacement of the machines in 2017.

Schedule for next Wednesday, April 1st meeting

The Committee will welcome petitioners to discuss warrant articles.

Adjournment

Donald White made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Sandra Hayes. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 10:14 pm.