

Approved April 24, 2023

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Faculty Dining Room
Wellesley Middle School
50 Kingsbury Street
Monday, April 10, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

Those present from Advisory Committee included Shawn Baker, Doug Smith, Madison Riley, Rani Elwy, Gail Sullivan, David Prock, Bill Schaufler, Pete Pedersen, Jenn Fallon, Christina Dougherty, Wendy Paul, Susan Clapham, Neal Goins, and Andrea Ward.

Also present were Dave Cohen, Director, DPW; Amy Gottschalk, TMM Precinct C; members of the DEI Task Force – Je Lesia Jones, Lina Musayev, Donna Stoddard, Paul Merry, John Benzan, Glen Kim. Joining the meeting later were Michael D’Ortenzio and Pete Jones.

Chair, Shawn Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Citizen Speak

There was no one present for Citizen Speak.

Article 29 updates

Dave Cohen provided an update on the revision to the motion for Article 29. The revision to the motion is for clarification. The first part is to adopt the provisions of Mass General Laws to create the stormwater enterprise fund and the second part relates to the funding – funds will be transferred from the FY24 operating budget; funds will be borrowed; ARPA funds will be sought; and then those borrowed funds will be reimbursed from the ARPA funds. The final part will be a delay in the implementation of stormwater fee to FY25. The request is now for \$1.9 million. The changes were made to clear up confusion. The money collected in taxes in FY24 is seen as seed money for the stormwater fund. The collection of the tax and the fee at the same time has been eliminated. DPW’s budget for FY25 will no longer have stormwater expenses in it and will be based on a lower FY24 base budget with the removal of the stormwater expenses. This frees up approximately \$1 million to be used for other needs in the town if necessary.

Advisory members asked questions and briefly discussed the revised Motion for Article 29.

Susan Clapham made, and Jenn Fallon seconded a motion for favorable action on Warrant Article 29, Motion 1, as proposed by the Board of Public Works, that the Town vote to (1) establish an Enterprise Fund for a Stormwater Utility commencing on July 1, 2023; and (2) transfer from available funds \$989,232.00 for the purposes of operating and managing the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund, and (3) borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$985,000 for the purposes of capital purchases for the operating of the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund as set forth in the revised Article and Motion.

Shawn Baker made, and Doug Smith seconded a motion to table the discussion and vote on the revised Article 29 motion. Motion to table was unanimously approved.

Motion to Amend Article 17

Amy Gottschalk, TMM C, presented a motion to amend the Article 17 motion by splitting it into two (2) motions because there seems to be confusion among TMMs, and it was felt there are two (2) different things being discussed.

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Questions were asked of Ms. Gottschalk and members of the DEI task force who were also in attendance.

There was a discussion about the wording of the resolution and additional concerns were expressed about some of the wording of the resolution. Members of the task force felt strongly that the equity audit and its funding were integral to the overall premise of the resolution and the original motion.

Susan Clapham made, and Jenn Fallon seconded the motion to amend Article 17 as proposed to divide article into two motions.

Discussion

A comment was made that Advisory had voted unanimously to support a single motion at the original discussion and vote.

A comment was made that the DEI task force put a lot of time into this and it is important to stick together to give a message to the town.

The vote was taken by a show of hands and Advisory recommends unfavorable action, 13 to 0 on the motion to amend Article 17.

Adjourn

Andrea Ward made, and Christina Dougherty seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at the close of Town Meeting tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.