

**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Zoom Videoconferencing Platform
Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

Those present from Advisory Committee included Shawn Baker, Julie Bryan, Tom Cunningham, Lauren Duprey, Jake Erhard, Jennifer Fallon, Neal Goins, John Lanza, Jeff Levitan, Bill Maynard, Deed McCollum, Corrine Monahan, Patti Quigley, Mary Scanlon and Doug Smith,

Julie Bryan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

6:30 p.m. Citizen Speak

There was no one present for Citizen Speak.

6:30 p.m. Board of Health

Lenny Izzo, Director, Health Department; Shepard Cohen, Chair, Board of Health (BOH); Marcia Testa Simonson, Vice Chair, BOH; and Linda Grape, Secretary BOH were present.

Staffing of the Health Department and the demands of supporting the health of Wellesley residents particularly during COVID were discussed. The BOH budget presentation for Advisory was reviewed and a brief overview of responsibilities of the Board of Health were presented.

BOH Budget request was reviewed including those expenses which will be covered by CARES Act funds. Additions to staff in public health, nursing and social work services were reviewed. Items covered by the CARES Act through December 30, 2020 were identified. Additions to staff for environmental, inspectional and administrative/enforcement services were presented and reviewed. The FY 21 change in the funding request for expenses not covered by the CARES Act for January 1 through June 30, 2021 was presented and reviewed. The Health Department's current and proposed organizational chart was presented.

Questions and Comments:

- Does the new budget including CARES money become the base line for budgetary planning for next year?
 - Yes, it does.
- The COVID pandemic will hopefully have been taken care of within 12 to 18 months, and the BOH request is focused on converting two positions from part time to full time. It would feel better to convert one to full time and use more part time resources to assuming the pandemic needs will abate over time.
 - The social worker position was already hired. BOH recognized that health department staffing needed to be enhanced prior to COVID, and the need for staffing will exist after COVID. This is simply an acceleration of that increase to provide additional resources for dealing with COVID.
- Did Sheryl want to include the \$20,000 in benefits in the CARES Act?
 - It doesn't go into the regular budget. Incremental costs are \$123,000. The benefits are a one-time charge. FY22 would not have benefit charges.
- The Board of Selectmen (BOS) is strongly supportive of the BOH needs.

7:05 p.m. Police Introduction

Chief Pilecki provided an overview of the Police Department and reviewed recent events that have impacted the police department. Police Department staffing was reviewed. Winnie, a Golden Retriever, is the newest addition to the department. She has been enthusiastically welcomed to the department and to the town and she has already been out on several calls. Advisory viewed several pictures of Winnie.

Questions:

- Are there other budget areas that will be impacted by COVID in addition to the lack of parking revenue?
 - The Spring mandatory training couldn't be completed, and the money was returned to the town, but the police department is trying to make up this training now.
- Is there anything at the state level in terms of police reforms that will impact Wellesley?
 - No, not really. If qualified immunity is eliminated, this might affect towns because towns will need additional insurance.
- Do the police have neighborhood patrols?
 - All officers are assigned to a specific sector of the town and the attempt is made to put officers in the same sector each time.

7:40 p.m. Fire Department Introduction

Chief DeLorie provided an overview and introduction of the Fire Department.

Questions:

- A question was asked about the fires out west.
 - These are urban wildfires. Wellesley has a forestry hose for forested areas. Weston, Natick and Needham have brush trucks that can get into remote areas so Wellesley can call for back up
- What happens to retired fire engines?
 - The Quint was traded in. Other types of fire trucks are kept as backup reserve trucks that can be put into service if needed.
- A question was asked about the recent island fire at Morses Pond that neighbors put out.
 - These island fires have been going on for years. If the fire department is contacted, they will deploy and put the fire out.
- If the town had more affordable housing would that help with the retention of fire fighters?
 - Residency is not the issue as there is an expanded residency area; a firefighter can live up to 25 miles away. The retention issue is more due to compensation.
- A COVID related question was asked if the same firefighters are kept on the same shifts all the time or is there another strategy for keeping them safe.
 - The firefighters are on a 24-hour schedule and masks are used all the time. A firefighter is assigned to a group and not typically moved to another shift. There are four teams of firefighters that work together.

8:35 p.m. Planning

Catherine Johnson, Chair, Planning Board (PB); Don McCauley, Director, Planning Department; Kathleen Woodward, Vice Chair, PB; Tom Taylor, PB; Patty Mallet, PB; James Roberti, PB; Dana Marks, Planner, Planning Department and Brandon Schmitt, Director, Natural Resources Commission (NRC) were present.

Approved 9/23/2020

The October Special Town Meeting #2 (STM#2) Planning articles are the same as those proposed for Annual Town Meeting (ATM) and approved by Advisory.

The Planning Department's organization and the boards it supports were reviewed along with the Planning Department's functions and staffing, responsibilities, COVID response, budget and ten-year comparison.

Questions:

- Was there a tree study that gave rise to the tree protection amendment proposed in the STM Article? General background on the issue was requested.
 - Planning worked in conjunction with the NRC on this bylaw. For a number of years, the NRC tracked the number of tree protection applications and decisions under this bylaw. They collected a lot of data.
 - The amendment cleans up some of the language in the bylaw. The tree bylaw has narrow applicability. The tree bylaw is triggered only with new construction or a significant addition. It does not apply to a homeowner who just wants to clear trees. Most of the people affected are developers rather than the individual owner of a property.
 - A recommendation was made to view the February 12, 2020 presentation to Advisory where Planning goes into greater detail into the scope of the tree bylaw.
- Does the tree bylaw have any impact on the new construction of either Hardy or Upham?
 - The tree bylaw applies only to most residential and commercial properties. It does not apply to public properties. If a property undergoes Large House Review (LHR) then the tree bylaw is not applied since LHR has its own review of the trees; the entire site is reviewed in LHR. The tree bylaw is limited to the perimeter of the property.
- In the Unified Plan, the Council on Aging (COA) was associated with senior housing. Is anyone taking the lead on this?
 - The town has a housing committee that is a multi-board group.
- How many LHRs have been approved?
 - All of them so far. Most of the LHRs received in the last two years have been for very large houses. The LHR process is to ensure all guidelines are followed and that the appearance is OK.
 - LHR calls for a review once a house reaches a certain threshold. It is glorified site plan review. Each LHR review often spans multiple meetings. An owner can come ahead of time to request waiving of some of the provisions.
- Is revitalizing the commercial districts part of Planning's work and what initiatives is Planning undertaking?
 - Planning is just beginning the process and the initiatives are still in development.

9:35 p.m. Minutes Approval

Patti Quigley made and John Lanza seconded a motion to approve the September 9, 2020 minutes.

Roll call vote:

Bill Maynard – yes

Patti Quigley – yes

John Lanza – yes

Mary Scanlon - abstain

Deed McCollum - abstain

Jennifer Fallon – yes

Jeff Levitan – yes

Approved 9/23/2020

Corinne Monahan - yes
Shawn Baker – yes
Doug Smith – yes
Jake Erhard – yes
Tom Cunningham – yes
Lauren Duprey – yes
Neal Goins - yes

9:37 p.m. Administrative Matters/Liaison Reports/Minutes

Jenn Fallon/Schools

- + Tents have been set up; a remote learning seminar was held for the group of 500 students; the fall athletic plan was approved.
- + Budget – Schools presented \$1.3 million in staffing plus \$587,000 in expenses. They have a \$1.8 million request for appropriation.
- + A question was asked how much of the \$1.3 million in staffing is for new employees – there are 30 new FTEs. The schools lost a lot of people because of COVID, and additional people were added for remote learning. If someone is on leave, they are paid and the new person is paid which increases staffing costs.
- + Another question was asked if any of this is covered by the CARES Act. This is a conversation with the BOS to see if any can be covered by CARES.

Patti Quigley/SBC – Public Hearing is September 17; the vote on the recommendation to MSBA is September 24.

Jeff Levitan/PBC – a \$1 million surprise due to oil contamination discovered at the Hunnewell site.

Corinne Monahan/Library – The Library is working on fundraising to see how much money can be raised for the renovations.

There was a discussion about the calendar and clarification about which ATM Articles are being carried over to STM #2.

9:56 p.m. Adjourn

Corrine Monahan made and Doug Smith seconded a motion to adjourn.

Roll call vote

Bill Maynard - yes
Patti Quigley – yes
John Lanza – yes
Mary Scanlon - yes
Deed McCollum - yes
Jennifer Fallon – yes
Jeff Levitan - yes
Corinne Monahan - yes
Shawn Baker – yes
Doug Smith – yes
Jake Erhard – yes
Tom Cunningham – yes
Lauren Duprey – yes
Neal Goins – yes