

**TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
9/25/2013**

**Committee Members Present:** Paul DeFazio, Tracey Metivier, Lawrence Thomas, Kevin Powers, Larry Stern, Susan Dring, Heidi Krockta, Michael Haney

**Committee Members Absent:** George Adler, Howard Siegal, Jeff Anderson

**Others Present:** Lorraine Brue, Ginny Coppola, Randy Scollins, Pattiann Maylynn, Lynda Walsh, George Leonard, Shannon Sylvia, Roger Hill, Bill Grieder, Gordon Greene, Mike Stanton, Bob Garber, Richard Pacella, Roger Hill, Robert Swanson

Notes taken by: Tracey Metivier

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00PM by Paul DeFazio, Chairman.

**First presentation was given by Sharon Wason, Bill Grieder and Gordon Greene from the Planning Department/Board.**

Sharon explained that Article 6 allows the town to accept a grant if the town is awarded it by the state. There are 46 applicants this year for the grant. Last year, 25 grants were awarded.

Amount of grant request is 400k and received/receiving remainder of funds needed for project by Highlawn developer.

The money will be used for work on the Payson Road complex to: thin out trees, pave two of the entranceways and the handicap parking spots, do some work on the a couple of the fields, purchase additional equipment for the tot lot, establish some paths and clean up storm debris.

Larry Stern asked if the funds from the developer could be used for another purpose. Randy Scollins replied no. Larry asked Roger Hill if this work will raise maintenance costs. He said not from a people standpoint but may require the purchase of an additional mower.

Larry Thomas asked if the town would need to appropriate the funds to this project. Sharon and Randy indicated that it would not and that the Planning Board would need to vote to disperse the funds for this project.

**Second presentation was given by Sharon, Wason, Bill Grieder and Gordon Greene from the Planning Department/Board.**

Sharon Wason explained that Article 7 is a zoning bylaw amendment. It would allow for shared driveways and dead end roads to be in access of 800 feet via a special permit process. This is to address the fact that all of the “easy” land in town has been taken and only “difficult” pieces of land are left to develop.

The special waiver process requires a higher bar to be met than the current waiver process. It is a public process with notices given, hearings held, etc.

Larry Thomas asked about the impact on the schools. Sharon indicated that that was unknown. He also asked how many more lots this would make able to be developed. She indicated that it is not a huge number. Larry asked about getting a list of the “remaining pockets”. Sharon will request that information from Roger Hill’s GIS person. He also asked about how much say neighbors would have in this process. Sharon said a lot.

A member of the audience asked about the parcels that could be built out. Sharon will provide. Sharon also indicated that any current unbuildable lots would remain unbuildable.

Randy Scollins asked about a 3 acre lot and if this change would make that buildable. Sharon indicated that it would not and would only allow the road to extend further.

**Third Presentation was given by Mike Stanton, Bob Garber, Richard Pacella, Roger Hill and Robert Swanson from the Water & Sewer Department/Commission.**

Bob Garber explained that Article 4 is a request to appropriate no more than \$600,000 for a new building on Elm Street which would house the Public Works Department.

The reason for this request is to consolidate the Public Works groups into one location (currently located in different locations throughout town), to realize efficiencies from this consolidation and to allow them vacate their space within the Town Hall. If the Public Words personnel were to remain in the Town Hall under the proposed new Town Hall building plan, it would cost an additional \$250,000.

The new building would be a modular building with a life span of approx. 40 years and would fit into town from a looks perspective. This option was the one recommended after KBA’s feasibility study which looked at various alternatives. The new building would be handicap accessible (current locations are not). The DPW would only be spending internal budget dollars (including Retained Earnings) and would not require additional funding from the town.

The module building project is currently out to bid so the \$600,000 amount will be amended on the floor at Town Meeting. It is expected that the actual amount will be lower.

Larry Stern asked how many people the new building would house. Roger Hill indicated it would be 9 plus two additional cubicles for expansion.

Larry Thomas asked a question re OPEB funding. Randy Scollins indicated that it has been budgeted for.

Heidi Krockta asked how many DPW people are currently housed at the Town Hall and Oak Street. Roger Hill indicated that 5 are currently located at Town Hall and 4 are currently located at the Oak Street location. Heidi asked about the setup in other towns. Roger indicated that they are all pretty centralized and provided specific town examples.

Roger Hill discussed the current administrative coverage issues. He shared that the centralized location would address these, allow for cross training to occur and allow for better management of staff as all would be in one location.

Tracey Metivier asked for confirmation that no new money would be required for this building. Randy Scollins confirmed that no new money would be needed.

Paul DeFazio brought up that this Article/request seems to piggyback on the Town Hall article and that, if the town says no to this article, it would throw a wrench into the Town Hall plan as the current plan does not include the DPW being housed at the Town Hall. Bob Garber confirmed that this is true.

Larry Stern pointed out that the cost per person for the proposed new building is cheaper than that for the proposed New Town Hall. He also asked if the money that would be used for this new building could be used for something else. The answer was yes.

Tracey Metivier mentioned the brown water problems and how will residents feel regarding having available funds paying for a new building. Roger Hill indicated that there has already been a 7 ½ million dollar investment to address this problem and expects to have the solution online by mid-October.

Larry Thomas asked if this would raise water rates in town. The answer was yes. Robert Swanson pointed out that the funds being used are revenue that has already been collected.

Mike Stanton asked if it would be possible to shuffle the order of the Articles given Paul's point at the beginning of the discussion. Lorraine Brue indicated that this is something that can be discussed next week at the BOS meeting. It would also require Frank Spillane's involvement and approval per Larry Thomas.

**Fourth presentation was given by Mike Stanton, Bob Garber, Richard Pacella, Roger Hill and Robert Swanson from the Water & Sewer Department/Commission.**

Bob Garber shared that Foxboro is in the final stages of approving the plans for an expanded sewer plant with Mansfield and Norton. As the next step in the process, Foxboro needs to identify a sewer area.

The department/commission has decided to do so by identifying all properties currently on the sewer system along with an area in the center of town (where a sewer system is needed to keep that area viable). In the past, the scare has been that people would be forced to hook into the new system. The department/commission has promised not to do that.

For those currently not hooked up to the sewer system and not within the designated area in the center of town, the commission can allow someone to hook up if they have a failed system. If they do not have a failed system, it would need to be brought to town meeting for a vote. The idea is to present all residential requests for hookups in one article and commercial requests in a separate article.

Larry Thomas asked if someone within the district (current hookups or within designated area within center of town) would have to go to town meeting for approval. Bob Garber answered no.

Roger Hill indicated that there are dire consequences of not joining this and that the current issues faced cannot be address by betterments.

Bob Garber explained that the plant in Mansfield needs to do better treatment of the waste. If we don't join, Foxboro's share of that cost will be \$18 million dollars; if we don't join the IMA consortium (with Mansfield and Norton), the existing 934 Foxboro sewer customers will end up shouldering the burden of those costs.

The department/commission shared that the IMA will have access to extra capacity (at free or discounted rates) and can then sell it off at a higher price to companies, etc. The town cannot sell the extra capacity without approval at town meeting.

Paul DeFazio and Bob Garber had a discussion about Foxfield Plaza.

Shannon Sylvia (audience member) shared that she produced several shows on this topic for FCA that are available on YouTube. She will forward the links to Paul for forwarding to the Advisory Committee.

Kevin Powers asked if the vote at town hall would require 2/3rds or a majority vote. Mike Stanton responded that it would require a majority vote.

**Fifth discussion was led by Lorraine Brue, Ginny Coppola and Randy Scollins regarding the Reserve Fund Transfer request for a recruitment firm for the Town Manager position.**

Tracey Metivier asked about the process used for prior searches for the Town Manager position as well as others in town. Lorraine Brue addressed the question.

Larry Thomas asked what is the driving the urgency of this request and why it cannot wait until the town meeting. Lorraine Brue addressed the question and Advisory Committee members commented. Larry

expressed concerns regarding spending down the Reserve Fund to such a small amount of money so early in the year.

Kevin Powers made a motion to approve the transfer. Tracey Metivier seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-3-0

**Sixth discussion was led by Shannon Sylvia regarding her request to tape Advisory Committee meetings and/or article segments prior to the town meeting.**

Shannon reviewed the options and indicated that she had already set aside the date of October 29<sup>th</sup> for the article segments option.

Paul DeFazio indicated that he has concerns about both options. Where the meetings have never been filmed before, would it change the passion, give & take, etc.? Would it scare people away from joining the Advisory Committee? He indicated that, if he had to chose, he would chose meetings over segments as the segments option would create more work for the members.

Larry Thomas expressed concern over the logistics of the meetings if they were to be filmed.

Larry Stern indicated that the FCA would have to be responsible for figuring out the logistics. He also indicated that he would have no problem having the meetings taped and that he is dead set against the segment option.

Heidi Krockta asked if this is something that we have to do before this particular town meeting and if doing it when we were not so rushed would be better.

Susan Dring indicated that she may not have joined if the meetings were filmed.

Larry Thomas stated that it would change the chemistry of the meetings.

Michael Haney indicated that it would cause people to measure what they are saying.

Larry Thomas asked about postponing the vote until after the town meeting.

Larry Stern indicated that he felt we should just vote on this now and not put it off.

Paul DeFazio expressed concern that there is so much going on currently that to do something new is concerning to him.

Shannon Sylvia requested that the Advisory Committee vote on this tonight. She also shared some information regarding the logistics involved in having the meetings filmed (i.e. the Advisory Committee members would need to sign off on being the producers, etc.).

Larry Stern made a motion to allow FCA to record the meetings. Tracey Metivier seconded the motion.  
Vote: 3-5

Tracey Metivier made a motion to have FCA film article segments. Paul DeFazio seconded the motion.  
Vote: 0-8

Meeting was adjourned at approx. 9:50PM.

Meetings approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: October 16, 2013

Vote: 8-0-0

Signature on File

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Signature of Chairperson

Signature on File

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Signature of Secretary