

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ✓

**Committee Members Present: Sue Dring, Thom Freeman, Sean McCarthy, Stephanie McGowan, Seth Ferguson, Brent Ruter, Rob Canfield, Heidi Krockta, Bernard Dumont, Javed Hussein**

**Members Absent: Jessica Allen, Michelle Raymond**

**Others Present: Virginia Coppola, Roger Hill, Larry Thomas, Ron Rogers**

**The meeting was brought to order at 7:05 by Susan Dring.**

**7:05 PM Roger Hill presented on DPW Related Articles.**

**7:06 PM Roger presented on Article 21, the Storm Water Bylaw.** Roger explained that the article sets up policies to comply with the unfunded state mandate regarding storm water management, also known as MS4. The article will allow for analysis of every catch basin in town, numbering approximately two thousand, and allow for them to be cleaned twice a year according to the mandate. Roger explained that samples would need to be taken and sent to laboratories every summer from outfalls that meet the definitions of the mandate. Javed inquired into the kind of water collected, and the methods for doing so. Roger explained that the water collected in the catch basins was storm water runoff, collected by sumps. Javed followed up by asking if the government was concerned with heavy metals and pollutants, and why the government was concerned if it was going to the ocean. Roger explained that there are more concerns about organics, such as bacteria like E.Coli. Roger stated that the mandate codifies all the actions the town needs to take. Thom inquired about disposal method of the debris collected in the basins. Roger stated that the department was in the process of identifying a new solution. Thom asked if there were any county government programs the department could leverage. Roger stated that there were no programs in the Commonwealth at this time, however there is a regional bid system that can be used. According to Roger, thirty years ago storm water management systems started to be installed and those systems are now inefficient, adding that the state rules change periodically which adds complexity. Thom inquired if there were any way to analyzing the mandate to see if it was effective. Roger stated that it couldn't be done right away, having to wait a year to see any tangible results, adding that the state may impose more mandates. Sue inquired if the state offered any assistance programs for this? Roger stated that the town is underfunded by the state, reporting that chapter 90 hasn't changed much in recent years.

**7:25 PM Roger presented on Article 22, the Winter Parking Ban Bylaw, and Article 23 the Snow Removal Bylaw.** Roger reported that the town doesn't have a snow and ice policy. Roger explained that the driving reason for the policy is for unaccepted streets, which are a liability to the town. Roger stated that his department has a duty to protect the public in times of inclement weather, but the town can accrue a liability for streets that aren't accepted. Director Hill explained that they have been using waivers of liability thus far from those that aren't accepted, such as streets that are partially built. Heidi inquired about the responsibility of the builder working on the project signing the waiver rather than the home owners if the street isn't finished. Roger stated that they seek out the builder first and then homeowners according to current policy. Seth inquired whether a street up to code will require a waiver. Roger stated that if the street hasn't been accepted they would still require a waiver as plows can rip up lawns accidentally, damage mailboxes etc., on accepted streets the town does the repairs. Roger explained the difficulties of heavy wet snow and plowing causing unintentional damage. Heidi inquired what else was in the policy. Roger stated that he would communicate with the Advisory Committee (ADCOM) representative at another time. Heidi then asked if Roger looked at other towns to draft it the article. Roger stated his department used the language from a town association called SURGE. For the parking ban, Stephanie asked if the process was similar to "a reverse 911 call". Roger responded in the affirmative. The bylaw lists a range of dates the ban could be in effect, with the Town Manager receiving the authority to impose the ban during those dates. The policy will state the rules clearly and will be made available on town website.

**7:39 PM Inclusion in the Sewer District.** The ADCOM inquired about the Downtown Sewer project. Roger stated that there is a demand for sewer, explaining that the charter school will be increasing in size and requests a tie in. Roger further explained that more inclusions will help produce revenue for the sewer enterprise. Sue inquired about the approximate length of time roads would be ripped up. Roger stated that it shouldn't be long unless the department hits a geographical ledge. Roger foresees favorable results for the town, stating that the sewer project would raise values of properties it affects. Sean inquired if Roger had any firm numbers of how many people will be connected. Roger stated he did not at that time, as we was looking to see were the ledge grade is. Javed asked if there were any plans to include the rest of the town? Roger stated he was identifying that currently but the plan is eventually.

**7:52 PM Ron Rogers presented on the Fisheries and Wildlife Committee formation.** Sue welcomed Mr. Rogers to the ADCOM meeting. Ron Rogers explained the need of a committee to regulate and manage the waters and lands for hunting and fishing purposes. Heidi asked for clarification as to whether Mr. Rogers wanted to protect the right to fish and natural resources, to which he responded in the affirmative. Ron explained the history of his project to start the committee from the early days fishing locally in town to the situation in town today. Brent inquired whether a group of concerned citizens was more applicable to Mr. Rogers' design. Mr. Rogers was concerned about it having enough weight. Sean expressed sympathy to Rogers endeavor, but stated that the direction he was heading could divide policy makers. Sean was

further concerned by incurring legal costs. Rogers expressed his concern that his rights, and the rights of other hunters and fisherman, are being taken away. He then presented on all the laws and protections related to the rights of fishers and hunters available currently in the Commonwealth. He stated his concern that other town departments and boards were in violation of those laws. Larry Thomas suggested using the library to follow the steps of the Child Abuse Committee, starting as an ad hoc committee of concerned citizens before evolving to a town included committee. Sean asked if legal exposure was an issue when that board was created. Virginia Coppolla stated that it was a concern, however over time the committee developed into a resource for the town. Lorraine Brue suggested speaking with the police chief to assist his case with the town manager and any other relevant committees or department heads. Brent stated that working in concert can lead to great results.

**8:44 PM The ADCOM discussed the changes highlighted in the Elderly Real Estate Tax Exemption Qualification Changes.** The ADCOM had questions regarding the need to change the eligibility requirements, and expressed concerns about over subscription and inability to remove entitlements after providing them.

**8:51 PM Article 11 Real Estate Tax Deferral Qualification Changes discussion.** Sue was concerned that the deferral program will lead to an increased need for employment by the town in order to handle the work. Heidi suggested fees as a way to protect the community.

**9:09 PM Article 14 Bylaw to Establish Department Revolving Funds discussion and vote.** Javed asked if this article helped the town, to which the ADCOM stated that it would give the town flexibility, especially in departments with irregular schedules beyond fiscal and calendar years. Javed motioned to accept as purposed, seconded by Rob.

**Vote: 9/0/0**

**9:12 PM Revolving Funds Annual Spending Limits discussion and vote.** Heidi was concerned that no past years were reflected in any presented materials. Thom made a motion to accept as purposed, seconded by Brent.

**Vote: 8/0/1**

**9:14 PM OPEB Trust Fund Statute Reacceptance vote.** Thom made a motion to accept as purposed, seconded by Javed.

**Vote: 9/0/0**

**9:15 PM Fund Qualified OPEB Trust vote.** Bernard made a motion to accept as purposed, seconded by Thom.

**Vote: 9/0/0**

**9:16 PM Expend Highway Funds Vote.** Heidi made a motion to accept as purposed, seconded by Thom.

**Vote: 9/0/0**

**9:17 PM General Discussion.** Sue stated her concerns with the health insurance problem, specifically regarding issues with town continuing to pay for healthcare for people after they retire. Sue stated that the OPEB will not be able to cover it, and that the town should not employee additional staff. She expressed that the School Committee needs to think about where their contracts are going.

The floor was opened up and the ADCOM had discussions regarding concerns with rising operations costs, census data, the albatross of healthcare benefits for employees, growth in town economically and growth in town in population size.

**Next meeting to be held in March 22 in the McGinty Room.**


**10:23 PM Adjourned.** Motion to adjourn by Seth, seconded by Brent.

**Vote: 9/0/0**

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: 3/15/17

Vote:

 ON BEHALF OF SUPRINT  
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Signature of Chairperson

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Signature of Secretary