

**Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Town of Foxborough**  
**Wednesday October 20, 2021**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Members in Attendance: Sharon Weiskerger, Paul Ivanovskis, Jack Martin, Dennis Keefe, Marlowe Farrar, Raffaella Zizza-Feinstein, Salina Chowdhury, Jay Mahoney**

Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M. by the Chairman

**1. Discussion of Warrant Article 11 – Amend Water-Sewer Map**

Chris Gallagher, Director of Public Works, presented two residences for inclusion in the water-sewer district, and updating of the appropriate maps. He did note that those residents would provide for their own hook-up costs, that there was substantial capacity in the system, and that it would be additional revenue for the town.

**2. Discussion of, and Voting on, Town Warrant Articles**

ARTICLE 1: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Outdoor Dining Planning Board

The committee discussed the desirability of continuing the outdoor dining option for restaurants that had adapted to the new Covid environment. Given that the state regulations that allow the outdoor option would (under current sunseting) will expire in the spring, the committee largely felt they should be extended under local regulations. The one question that created additional discussion was ensuring sidewalk access to the public, but given the Board of Selectmen would be required to approve any outdoor dining permits, the committee felt that there was adequate control in place, voting unanimously to recommend the Article.

ARTICLE 2: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Accessory Apartments Planning Board

There was significant discussion around this article.

*Arguments made in favor of the Article:*

Accessory apartments would provide more access to less-expensive housing at a time when housing costs are skyrocketing, and inventory is low. It would provide a means for homeowners to recover their investment costs to finance required changes. It could be viewed more favorably by banks approving loans to finance the changes. For homeowners who had previously added an addition for a family member, and who now possess an unleaseable apartment, it would provide the ability to take on tenants.

*Arguments made against the Article:*

Compliance would be very difficult to enforce. These types of changes may be too expensive for average homeowner to afford.

Final vote: 7-1-0

ARTICLE 3: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Building Height Planning Board

Given this change would clarify the application of the bylaw, and that it applies to zoning decisions and not taxation, the committee voted unanimously to recommend this.

ARTICLE 4: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Brew Pub Definition Planning Board

After a brief discussion to ensure a consistent understanding of the definitions in the Article, the committee voted unanimously to approve it.

ARTICLE 5: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Habitable Floor Area Planning Board

There were no concerns about this article, and the committee voted unanimously to approve it.

ARTICLE 6: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Site Plan Exemption in FCOD Planning Board

This article was viewed as a desirable streamlining of a current process that is unwieldy, and the committee voted unanimously to approve it.

ARTICLE 7: Street Acceptance: Portion of Garret Spillane Road Planning Board

Earlier in the meeting, while presenting on the water-sewer update, the Director of Public Works noted that the road area subject to this Article was not ready for inclusion. Given that, the committee voted unanimously to disapprove it.

ARTICLE 8: Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Sign Bylaw Zoning Board of Appeals

This Article was discussed as another opportunity to streamline and clarify a complicated set of bylaws. The committee voted unanimously to recommend it.

ARTICLE 9: Fund Qualified OPEB Trust Board of Selectmen

This Article was a follow-up to a decision made at the onset of Covid to delay funding OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) until the impacts of Covid on meals tax collection was clearer. The committee discussion was largely centered on ensuring that the payment schedule presented by the Town Manager at an earlier Advisory Committee meeting would get Foxboro back on track in terms of making appropriate contributions to OPEB; given that it did, the committee voted unanimously to recommend the Article.

ARTICLE 10: Southeastern Regional School District Budget Amendment Board of Selectmen

This budget adjustment had been discussed during the previous Annual Town Meeting cycle as likely to be submitted sometime after Town Meeting; as such, it was expected, and the committee voted unanimously to approve it.

ARTICLE 11: Sewer District Revision

Water and Sewer Commission

The committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

ARTICLE 12: Civil Service Legislative Petition

Board of Selectmen

There was significant discussion around this article, as the modernization of the Foxborough Police Department's recruiting and training is desirable, but the committee wanted to also fully understand the potential trade-offs from leaving a system originally implemented to ensure equity, as well as the need to consider the budget implications.

*Arguments made in favor of the Article:*

Union supported; should have no impact to Veteran's status; will allow for higher quality candidates and candidates from our community to be engaged; will allow for a more diverse department: cost should be offset by lower overtime fees associated with a fully staffed department; and other surrounding towns have already abandoned the Civil Service program.

*Arguments made against the Article:*

The current system has served the Town of Foxborough with little complaint over the past decades; associates degree will now be required to apply; testing and hiring practices were previously standardized; potential loss of standing for promotions for current officers; and probationary period is not standardized; increase of overall budget cost for the Department.

Final vote: 7-1-0

ARTICLE 13: CIP Committee Bylaw Clean Up

CIP Committee

This article is intended to cleanup an inconsistency between town code and how members are currently placed on the CIP committee. The committee voted unanimously to approve it.

A motion was made at 8:50 to conclude the meeting. That motion was seconded, and then approved unanimously.