



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2019 6:30 p.m.
Town Room, Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue**

Minutes

Complete video is available online: <https://amherstmedia.org/content/amherst-town-council-21119>

1. Call to order and declaration of a quorum

President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Councilors present: Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz.

Councilors absent: None

Councilors participating remotely: Councilor Hanneke

President Griesemer announced that Councilor Hanneke will be participating remotely because attendance would be unreasonably difficult; all votes will be taken by roll call.

Others present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Clerk of the Council Margaret Nartowicz

President Griesemer announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

2. Announcements

President Griesemer made the following announcements:

- Amherst will be celebrating its 260th Anniversary on February 13th
- Presentations tonight will include information about future capital improvements projects; the next scheduled Town Council meeting will include a presentation about funding scenarios for these projects
- Listening sessions for the school building project will not be part of district meetings, the first will take place on 2/27/19, 2/28/19, and 3/6/19
- Town Council will have a discussion about the MSBA application at the Town Council meeting scheduled for 3/18/19; vote will be taken at the meeting scheduled for 4/1/19
- A public forum on the FY20 budget is scheduled for 3/7/19 at the Amherst Regional Middle School, at least half of the meeting time will be open for public comment

- The Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee has suggested a reorganization of the agenda; public comment will take place earlier in the meeting

President Griesemer also invited the public to reach out to the Town Council at towncouncil@amherstma.gov, to reach the councilors at their individual email addresses, during office hours, or at district meetings.

3. Hearings – None

4. General Public Comments, not related to agenda items 5.a., 5.b., or 6.

Rob Kusner, an Amherst resident, made comments regarding PVRTA funding, evening and weekend service cuts during the summer months, urged the Town Council to take action to increase the Town's contribution to the PVRTA, as well as pass a resolution to commit to public transit, and encouraged the public to use public transportation.

Bill Elsasser, an Amherst resident, commented on developments in the Downtown area, and urged the limitation of 5-story construction to the Kendrick Park side of the Downtown.

5. Presentations and Discussion

a. Capital Projects Presentation

- 1) [Library](#) – Library Director, Sharon Sharry
- 2) [Steps to Build a Public Building](#) – DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring
- 3) [Fire](#) – Fire Chief Tim Nelson & DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring
- 4) [DPW](#) – DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring
- 5) [Infrastructure](#) – DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring
- 6) **Public Comment**

Alex Lefebvre, a Trustee of the Jones Library, commented that the MBLC studied the space at the Jones and concluded that it is not usable, that the Library's services are a social justice tool, and encouraged the Town Council's support of the Jones.

Nancy Bair, from District 1 and a neighborhood association member, presented the Town Council with a letter from Meg Gage, and urged the Town Council to focus on infrastructure problems in North Amherst including the Pine Street intersection and sidewalks.

Chris Hockman of 51 Arnold Rd, Pelham commented that the Pavement Condition Index number as presented on the pie chart is misleading, as the chart shows a percentage of segments scanned rather than miles of road.

Julian, a young Amherst resident, thanked Chief Nelson and Superintendent Mooring for their presentations and work, and offered an idea to use the Main Street Fire Station as an art space or other public space rather than demolishing it.

b. [Community and Economic Development Committee \(CED\) Charge](#)

- 1) **Council Discussion**

Councilors Pam and Schreiber introduced the CED Committee charge.

Discussion included:

- How to do “sustainable planning” without adding to the taxpayers’ burden
- If the charge should include “equity”
- Adding taxable property may come at a cost to the Town in other ways – public impact studies are important
- Cannot assume net positive impact for new developments; must calculate net yield before new developments begin
- If “sustainability” should be included in the committee name
- How the committee will interact with the Design Review Board and Historic Preservation committees
- Referral to Government, Organization and Legislation Committee for formatting
- The functions of the committee; if the committee would screen proposals or write potential Town Council orders
- Involvement in the Master Plan; the Planning Board is statutorily required to develop the Master Plan
- Avoiding duplication of work from other multiple-member bodies

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Ryan, to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review and refine the CED charge and answer questions raised by the Town Council.

VOTED unanimously by roll call to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review and refine the CED charge and answer questions raised by the Town Council.

6. Action Items – (Including discussion after motion)

a. Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC)

- 1) **Report from Ad Hoc Committee**
- 2) **Council motion and vote**
 - a) **Approval of Charge**

MOTION: Councilor Ross moved, second by Councilor Ryan to approve the charge of the Energy and Climate Action Committee as presented.

Discussion: Councilor Ross explained the blue highlighted areas are changes voted at the Town Council meeting, yellow highlighted areas are changes that the Ad Hoc Committee voted to approve.

Further discussion included:

- Issues with term length; the ECAC term may be longer than the Councilors’ Town Council terms
- If councilors will represent the Town Council or serve more like a liaison between the ECAC and the Town Council; councilors cannot speak for the Town Council, only the Town Council can do that
- Questions about SME status
- Typographical errors
- Removal of “standing” from the charge

VOTED 12-1 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor Brewer voted No) to approve the charge of the Energy and Climate Action Committee as presented.

b) Dissolution of Ad Hoc Committee

President Griesemer stated that the Council will vote to dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee on the ECAC charge when the Ad Hoc Committee's approved final report and minutes are submitted.

b. Communications, Outreach and Appointments Committee – Amendment of Charge

1) Report of Communications, Outreach and Appointments Committee

2) Council motion and vote

a) Approval of Amendment of Charge

Councilor Swartz explained amendments to the charge, including changing the committee name, and other revisions to the charge for consistency. The new committee name will be Outreach, Communications and Appointments (OCA).

MOTION: Councilor Swartz moved, second by Councilor Ryan to amend the charge of the Communications, Outreach and Appointments Committee.

VOTED unanimously by roll call to amend the charge of the Communications, Outreach and Appointments Committee.

c. Zoning Board of Appeals [Charter Sec. 2.9(c), 10.7(o)]

1) Council Discussion

2) Council motion and vote

a) Appointment of members

President Griesemer explained that the motion would allow the Town Council time to appoint new members to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and acting Zoning Board of Appeals members would continue their work until new members are appointed.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Steinberg to appoint the following members of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to comply with Amherst Home Rule Charter Section 10.7(o), all with terms to expire June 30, 2019: Keith Langsdale, Joan O'Meara, Thomas Simpson, and Steve Judge.

VOTED unanimously by roll call to appoint the following members of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to comply with Amherst Home Rule Charter Section 10.7(o), all with terms to expire June 30, 2019: Keith Langsdale, Joan O'Meara, Thomas Simpson, and Steve Judge.

7. Appointments

a. Town Manager Appointments

1) Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) Appointments

2) Council motion and vote

a) Referral to Communications, Outreach and Appointments Committee

MOTION: Councilor Steinberg moved, second by Councilor Ryan to approve the Town Manager's recommended appointments to the Community Preservation Act Committee.

Discussion: Councilor Steinberg explained that state law requires CPAC to refer proposals to the Town Council after reviewing applications and discussing the allocation of limited funds; this motion will allow CPAC to continue their work. Councilors discussed the need to revisit CPAC members term lengths, and to refer to OCA in the future.

VOTED unanimously by roll call to approve the Town Manager's recommended appointments to the Community Preservation Act Committee.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Outreach, Communications and Appointments Committee – Councilor Swartz, Chair**
- b. Finance Committee – Councilor Steinberg, Chair**
- c. Governance, Organization and Legislation Committee – Councilor Hanneke, Chair**
- d. [Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee](#) – Councilor Brewer, Chair**

9. Proclamations and commemorations - None

10. Approval of Minutes

- a. [January 28, 2019](#)**

MOTION: Councilor De Angelis moved, second by Councilor Schoen to approve the January 28, 2019 Town Council minutes as amended.

VOTED 11-0-2 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors Brewer and DuMont Abstained) to approve the January 28, 2019 Town Council minutes as amended.

- b. [February 2, 2019 – Council Retreat](#)**

MOTION: Councilor Schreiber moved, second by Councilor Ryan to approve the February 2, 2019 Town Council minutes as presented.

VOTED 11-0-2 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors Brewer and Swartz Abstained) to approve the February 2, 2019 Town Council minutes as presented.

11. [Town Manager Report](#)

Town Manager Paul Bockelman gave brief remarks about the following items:

- Early dismissal at Amherst Schools for snow tomorrow, 2/12/19 and Town parking ban after midnight

- Event at Wagner Wood with announcement of a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy to process and store dry wood
- Thanks to Fire and Police Departments for an uneventful Super Bowl Sunday
- Accident at Puffers Pond; a child fell through thin ice but is okay
- Compliments to LSSE for a successful Winterfest
- MEMA will conduct mock emergency drill with Town staff
- Downtown parking consultant has begun work
- Board of License Commissioners first meeting 2/12/19
- Public Forum on the Town budget on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. at ARMS
- The Town is in support of Hampshire College as the college handles its current financial challenges
- Study from Kuhn Riddle on North Amherst Library will be available

12. Town Council Comments

a. President reports – Council retreat overview

President Griesemer commented that a draft of short-term goals, as discussed at the Town Council Retreat will be available for the 2/25/19 Town Council meeting; these may be used in the Town Manager’s annual evaluation.

President Griesemer encouraged everyone to watch the latest two episodes of Byline with Stan Rosenberg, as they feature school building issues and related guests.

b. Future agenda items

c. Councilor Comments

Councilor Schreiber noted a talk at UMass on 2/13/19 at 4:30 p.m. in Design Room 170, 551 North Pleasant Street, about walkable communities.

Councilor Schoen commented that there will be a meeting on 2/13/19 with an explanation of results of the Fort River School Building Feasibility Study.

13. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the President 48 Hours in Advance – None

14. Executive Session – None

15. Adjourn

MOVED: Councilor Schoen moved, second by Councilor Pam to adjourn.

VOTED unanimously by roll call to adjourn at 10:58 p.m. on February 11, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Z. Nartowicz
Town Clerk & Clerk to the Council

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

- Agenda 02-11-2019 FINAL rev. 02-08-2019
- 1 Draft Motions for Town Council - 02-11-2019
- 5-a-1 Jones Library Council Presentation - Building Project 2-11-19
- 5-a-2 DCC-1B-2019-01 Overview and Context
- 5-a-2 DCC-2B-2019-01 Procuring Design Contracts
- 5-a-3 2018 Amherst FD 0426
- 5-a-3 Fire_station tour powerpoint
- 5-a-4 2019 where we are DPW
- 5-a-4 Amherst-BOS-Update-Presentation-03-21-16-Print-Version
- 5-a-4 DPW_facility tour powerpoint
- 5-a-5 DPW - Road Paving Projects Status
- 5-a-5 StreetScan_20190208 gbm
- 5-b-1 Community and Economic Development Committee Charge DRAFT 02-07-2019
- 6-a-2-a (3) ECAC_2-8_Ad Hoc Committee Revisions (Dumont, Darcy A.)
- 6-a-2-a Energy and Climate Action Committee Charge FINAL 02-11-2019
- 6-b-1 Outreach Communications Appointments Standing Committee report TC 02-11-19 avb
- 6-b-2-a Communications Outreach and Appointments Committee 02-06-2019 Amendment of Charge 02-11-2019
- 6-b-2-a Communications Outreach and Appointments Committee Charge Markup 12-17-18 Revised 02-11-19
- 6-b-2-a Outreach, Communications, and Appointments Committee Charge 12-19-18 Revised 02-11-19 (1)
- 6-b-2-a Communications Outreach and Appointments Committee Charge FINAL 12-17-2018
- 6-c ZBA and upcoming Agenda item email 02-10-2019 for Council 02-11-2019
- 7-a-1 TMgr CPAC Appointments for Council 02-11-2019
- 8-d Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee Report Council Meeting 02-11-2019
- 10-a Town Council Meeting Minutes DRAFT 01-28-19
- 10-a Town Council Meeting Minutes DRAFT 01-28-19 rev. 02-11-2019
- 10-b Town Council Retreat Minutes DRAFT 02-02-2019
- 11 Town Manager Report 02-11-2019 with attachments