



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Public Forum
Wednesday, February 6, 2019 9:00 a.m.
Town Room, Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue**

Minutes

Complete video is available online: <https://amherstmedia.org/content/amherst-town-council-public-forum-2619>

1. Call to order and declaration of a quorum

President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

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

Councilors absent: Councilor Brewer

Councilors participating remotely: None

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

President Griesemer announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

2. Announcements - None

3. Presentations and Discussion

**a) Station Road Bridge Replacement Plan and Funding – Superintendent of Public Works
Guilford Mooring**

Superintendent of Public Works Guilford Mooring gave a brief update on the current state of the Station Road bridge project.

4. Committee Reports – Finance Committee

Councilor Steinberg gave an update from the Finance Committee on the funding for the Station Road bridge project, and explained the two recommendations from the Finance Committee; one to appropriate funds for a temporary bridge, and the other to replace funds from the road repair account that were used for engineering service costs incurred for the Station Road bridge.

5. Public Comment

b) Public Forum [Charter Sec 5.6] – Station Road Bridge Funding

Public comment began at 9:17 a.m.

Sigurd Nilsen, 27 Teaberry Ln and President of the Amherst Woods Homeowners Association summarized comments made at previous meetings, including safety concerns, increased traffic on alternate routes, and urged the Town Council to approve funding for the project.

Barbara Rothenberg, 27 Teaberry Ln. spoke about the impact of the bridge closure on residents and businesses, the stress on alternate routes used to avoid the closure, and urged the Town Council to approve funding for the temporary bridge.

Martha Hanner, 18 Alyssum Dr. estimated two million extra miles have been driven by residents to avoid the bridge closure, and commented that the temporary bridge would be a fair compromise until a grant is awarded to help fund a permanent bridge.

Dr. Mary Ann Lowen, 104 Larkspur Dr. spoke about the need for doctors in her neighborhood responding to emergencies to reach the hospital quickly.

Kenneth Cohen, an Amherst resident, echoed previous comments, and urged the Town Council to focus on infrastructure to avoid a similar situation in the future.

Rich Morse of Precinct 7 asked about projects that may not be funded in the future if funds are moved from free cash now.

Randy Needham of Acrow Bridge Corporation asked about the possibility of a temporary bridge that can be used in the permanent bridge.

Councilor De Angelis asked how infrastructure projects are prioritized.

Superintendent Mooring compared the Station Road bridge project to the Mill River bridge project, and explained that the Department of Public Works does not set project priorities.

6. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the President 48 hours in advance – None

7. Adjourn

MOVED: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor De Angelis to adjourn.

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 9:39 a.m. on February 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Z. Nartowicz
Town Clerk & Clerk to the Council

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

- Agenda 2-6-19 Public Forum FINAL rev. 1-31-19
- Draft Motions for Town Council Public Forum 2-6-19
- Finance Committee Report January 25, 2019
- Station Road presentation 02-06-2019