



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting to Establish an Open Meeting of the Residents
Monday, June 10, 2019 6:30 p.m.
Town Room, Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue**

Minutes

1. Call to order and declaration of a quorum

President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Councilors absent: None

Councilors participating remotely: None

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

President Griesemer announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

2. Public Comment

3. Establish an Open Meeting of the Residents [Charter Sec. 8.1] on June 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Room for the purpose of hearing presentations and discussing the Community Preservation Act Committee's recommendation regarding the proposed SRO project at 132 Northampton Road

MOTION: Councilor Hanneke moved, second by Councilor Steinberg, in accordance with Charter Section 8.1, to establish an Open Meeting of the Residents on June 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Room for the purpose of hearing presentations and discussing the Community Preservation Act Committee's recommendation regarding the proposed SRO project at 132 Northampton Road.

President Griesemer spoke about the draft agenda for the 24th; originally, a community discussion was scheduled for June 18th but has been rescheduled due to public response that the meeting format was unacceptable.

Councilor Brewer asked if any of the presentations will address the zoning use that is allowed specifically by approval from Town Meeting. President Griesemer asked that the Town Manager confer with the Planning Department.

Councilor Ross clarified that the vote will be to set the meeting, not approve the agenda.

Councilor DuMont asked if the public will expect to hold a similar meeting any time an issue like this comes up. President Griesemer responded that due to an abundance of comments to the Council from the public, there was a need to use the Open Meeting of the Residents provision in the charter.

Councilor Ross asked about how abutters and neighbors would be defined, as they are listed specifically rather than general public comment. President Griesemer responded that she has not been provided with a list for the group but have been asked to give abutters and neighbors time to speak.

Councilor Schreiber asked about questions sent from neighbors regarding public safety; will anyone be present who can address public safety issues. President Griesemer stated that Mr. Bockelman will have information.

Councilor Ryan asked about the change in format. President Griesemer stated that she received an email that some members of the public were not satisfied with the format of the previously scheduled meeting.

Councilor Brewer stated that there was intent to have project website with information, and asked how to make correspondence available on the Town website.

Councilor Schreiber commented that there may be some who are not comfortable speaking in public.

Councilor Pam commented that abutters is limiting phrase. Town Council is experimenting with a different form of democracy and this is an opportunity to let people be heard.

President Griesemer stated that residents who wish to make a presentation should contact her.

VOTED 12-0-1 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor DuMont Abstained) in accordance with Charter Section 8.1, to establish an Open Meeting of the Residents on June 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Room for the purpose of hearing presentations and discussing the Community Preservation Act Committee's recommendation regarding the proposed SRO project at 132 Northampton Road.

4. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting - None

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilor Hanneke moved, second by Councilor Pam to adjourn.

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. on June 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena O'Keeffe

Approved June 17, 2019



Margaret Z. Nartowicz
Town Clerk & Clerk to the Council

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

Town Council Agenda 06-10-2019 To Call an Open Meeting of Residents