



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Public Forum
Monday, September 23, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, Town Room
4 Boltwood Avenue**

Minutes

Complete video is available online: <https://amherstmedia.org/content/amherst-town-council-september-23-2019>

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, Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek, Economic Development Director Geoff Kravitz, Superintendent of Public Works Guilford Mooring

President Griesemer announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

2. Presentations and Discussion

a. Centennial Water Treatment Facility

Superintendent of Public Works Guilford Mooring spoke about the limitations of the existing water sources.

b. Hickory Ridge

Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek spoke about the property; 26 acres would be leased for a solar array, a portion of the remaining land would be preserved, and a smaller portion of the property and existing buildings would be re-purposed.

Economic Development Director Geoff Kravitz spoke about funding sources for the project.

Public Comment:

Centennial

Sarah Serwa, of 21 Rosemary Lane, asked about other options before upgrading Centennial, and stated that residents on fixed incomes will be affected by water rate increases.

G. Mooring spoke about alternatives and the cost of failing to get Centennial up and running, thereby eliminating one of the water sources in Town. Permitting process for new sources is uncertain, approval by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is not guaranteed. Water quality is poorest in the summer, due to an increase in frequency of thunderstorms; water quality improves after the summer.

Lyons Witten, of 120 Pulpit Hill Road and Chair of the Water Supply Protection Committee, spoke about the benefit of three available water sources in Town versus two, about the uncertainty of certification of new water sources by DEP in the future, and recommend that the Town continue the process for upgrading the Centennial water treatment plant.

Chris Hoffman, of 61 Arnold Road, Pelham, commented that it would be a shame to not utilize the current water resource, asked about upgrades to the water and sewer lines servicing the plant, and asked about how Pelham residents can provide input.

G. Mooring responded that there is no immediate need to upgrade the two sections referenced, and stated that there is an operational solution to the handling of the sewer flow. The project must go through the site plan review and Conservation Commission process in Pelham, where there would be an opportunity for public comment. Ideally, the new plant would be set back from the road further than the current facility.

S. Serwa spoke in favor of upgrading well 5 and exploring less costly alternatives.

Hickory Ridge

Tom Joyce, of 19 Alyssum Drive, and a previous member of the golf course commented that the cart paths on the course are not all accessible during the whole year, some of the property floods during part of the year, raised questions about access to the property by emergency and maintenance vehicles, proposed that the Town lease the clubhouse to a restaurant, and spoke against acting too quickly on this project.

D. Ziomek stated that there is an understanding that part of the property would be inaccessible during part of the year, which is what nature does in a flood plain. Some parts of the course could be more accessible than others. There is a need for an in-depth master plan for the property. The project will come before the Finance Committee in early October, and the Town can present more specifics on re-use of the property. The clubhouse may be demolished if there is not a better use for the building.

Bruce Stedman, of 20 Mt Holyoke Drive and Executive Director of the Conway School of Landscape Design, spoke in favor of the purchase of the property, and urged public engagement in creating the master plan for the project.

President Griesemer closed the public forum at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena O'Keefe

Clerk of the Town Council

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

09-23-2019 FINAL Town Council Agenda - Public Forum

2.a. 2019 Sept 20 TC Cent WTP rate impact

2.a. Centennial Water Update Oct 2017 rev Sep 2019

2.b. Hickory Ridge - Fig 1 Site Locus 2

2.b. Hickory Ridge Proposal TC - 8-26-19