



**Town of Amherst
Special Town Council Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2020
6:30 PM
Virtual Meeting
Minutes**

Complete video is available online: <https://amherstmedia.org/content/amherst-town-council-special-meeting-august-10-2020>

1. Call to Order

Councilors Participating Remotely: Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz

Councilor Bahl-Milne (joined at 6:35 p.m.)

Councilors Absent: None

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Planning Director Chris Brestrup, KP Law Town Attorney Joel Bard, Esq., Amherst Fire Chief Tim Nelson, Facilities Manager Jeremiah LaPlante, IT Applications Analyst Serge Fedorovsky, UMass Amherst, Associate Vice Chancellor for University Relations Nancy Buffone, UMass Amherst, Executive Director of External Relations and University Events Tony Maroulis, UMass Amherst, Executive Director of EH&S and Emergency Management Jeffrey Hescocock, and Minute Taker Angela Mills

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

Note: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Town Council was conducted via remote participation.

2. Announcements

Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

- Regular Town Council Meeting: August 17, 2020 5:00 p.m. reading period, 7:00 p.m. agenda begins
- Regular Town Council Meeting: August 31, 2020 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Council Committee Meetings:

- Community Resources Committee: August 18, 2020 2:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee: TBD
- Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee: August 19, 2020 10:30 a.m.
- Town Services and Outreach Committee: August 20, 2020 6:30 p.m.

All meeting agendas and details are posted at www.amherstma.gov/calendar

President Griesemer reviewed the opportunities for public comment throughout the meeting.

3. Hearings – None

4. General Public Comment

Amherst Resident, Carol Gray (South East Street) – Commented on Zoning bylaw that will be reviewed later in the meeting. Gray expressed the opinion that the proposed bylaw amendment would water down the zoning bylaw. Gray urged the Councilors to vote no.

Amherst Resident, Georgia Malcom (North Pleasant Street) – Spoke to the voting records of the Town Councilors and encouraged them to vote to fund the rights of the marginalized Residents of Amherst. She asked that funding be diverted to programs for Black and Brown people.

5. Consent Agenda - None

6. Resolutions and Proclamations - None

Agenda Item 8.a. Action Items: Election and Polling Locations

President Griesemer noted that Town Attorney, Joel Bard, Esq was present this evening to answer intricate questions. Changes to previous vote (at previous Town Council meeting), would require eight separate votes by Councilors.

Clarification from KP Law informed the Councilors that they have until August 12, 2020. President Griesemer apologized for confusion at last Monday's meeting (Monday, August 3, 2020), including the motion that was out of order. President Griesemer thanked Town Clerk, Shavena Martin, and P. Bockelman, Town Manager, for their clarification and assistance.

8.a.(1): Elections: Polling Locations

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, seconded by Councilor Hanneke to suspend Council Rules of Procedure rule 7.5 for agenda items 8a(1) and 8a(2).

VOTED: 13-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted Yes).

8.a.(2): Elections: September 1, 2020 State Primary Election Warrant

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, seconded by Councilor Hanneke to reconsider the vote to authorize the warrant for the State Primary Election on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 that occurred on August 3, 2020.

VOTED: 13-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted Yes).

Note: Text of the Motion that Motion to Reconsider was about:

MOTION: To authorize the warrant for the State Primary Election on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, with polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the following location: All Voting Precincts: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, seconded by Councilor Hanneke to postpone to a time definite consideration of this motion on the table, the time being immediately after Agenda Item 8a(1): Elections: Polling Locations is completed at today's meeting.

VOTED: 13-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted Yes).

Agenda item 8a(1): Elections: Polling Locations

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, seconded by Councilor Hanneke, to reconsider the vote on the motion to locate in-person voting on September 1, 2020 and November 3, 2020 for all town voting precincts at Amherst-Pelham Regional High School that occurred on August 3, 2020.

VOTED: 13-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted Yes).

Note: Text of the Motion that the Motion for Reconsideration was about and that is now on the table:

MOTION: To locate in-person voting on September 1, 2020 and November 3, 2020 for all ten voting precincts at Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street, as this will have no disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age.

Councilor Pam noted that she was not able to follow all of the motions. President Griesemer explained the many motions and the votes that just took place. President Griesemer further explained that the Councilors would return to the election warrant once they have voted on the locations. The current vote was to vote to reconsider the polling locations. President Griesemer explained that this vote would allow the Council to reconsider. Councilor DuMont noted that the votes are located at the end of the motions sheet.

Reconsidered the Town Council decision from previous meeting to consolidate all polling locations to ARHS.

President Griesemer would like to amend this. President Griesemer referred to the slide that offers Options 1 or Option 2. North Fire Station (Precinct 2) will also vote at Amherst Regional High School (ARHS). It will move Precinct 2, Precinct 4, and Precinct 10 would also move to ARHS.

MOVED: President Griesemer read the motion, seconded by Councilor Schoen, to amend the motion to amend the motion by striking all the language after "November 3, 2020" and replacing it with the following language:

at seven of the current eight polling sites and change three polling places to one new site at the Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street as follows:

- District 1, Voting Precinct 1: North Zion Korean Church, Church Hall, 1193 North Pleasant Street
- District 2, Voting Precinct 2: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street –

Location Change

- District 1, Voting Precinct 3: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 4: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street – Location Change
- District 4, Voting Precinct 5: Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk
- District 2, Voting Precinct 6: Fort River School, 70 South East Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 7: Crocker Farm School, 280 West Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 8: Munson Memorial Library, South Amherst Common, 1046 South East Street
- District 4, Voting Precinct 9: Wildwood School, 71 Strong Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 10: Amherst- Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street – Location Change

Furthermore, this will have no disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income, or age. This change shall be in place for 2020. The Town shall study the election results and patterns by mail or in-person with an assessment of any disparate patterns by neighborhood, race, national origin, disability, income, or age and the results of new mail-voting and report back to inform possible future changes in 2021.

President Griesemer spoke to the motion. Town Councilors heard from the public. President Griesemer apologized to Residents of Amherst for not responding to all of the emails she had received regarding this motion. President Griesemer acknowledged that the CDC and the public have asked for voting to be spread out at several polling stations.

President Griesemer explained that North Fire Station was pulled from the polling locations due to the fact that fire fighters live there when they are on duty. It was asserted that First Responders (Amherst Firefighters) should not be asked to move out for three days (due to COVID 19). Councilors discussed the move of precincts out of Bangs was due to COVID 19.

Councilor Steinberg explained that he felt uncomfortable voting for both elections (September 1, 2020 and November 3, 2020) in one vote. He expressed that it would be beneficial to come back to the consideration of polling locations after the September 1, 2020 Primary. Councilor Steinberg looked forward to hearing about modifications to polling locations like the Munson Library and Community Space (South Amherst). Councilor Steinberg would welcome the opportunity to hear from students, parents, faculty and staff about continuing to use schools as polling locations.

President Griesemer suggested that P. Bockelman, S. Martin, Jeremiah LaPlante (Facilities Manager) were present at the meeting and could speak to accessibility and traffic flow for each site.

Councilor Schoen mentioned that the Councilors had heard from the ACLU and that Amherst Residents were upset about the disruption of the voting system in Amherst. Councilor Schoen noted that if schools have to be closed for four days (for cleaning and sanitizing) in order for voting to take place, it would show residents and children how important voting remains in a democracy.

President Griesemer moved to the presentation from P. Bockelman, S. Martin (Town Clerk), and J. LaPlante (Facilities Maintenance Manager). The slide detailing the high school traffic flow for voting was shared via the virtual meeting platform. P. Bockelman explained how the plan was approved by Health, Fire, and Safety etc. J. LaPlante narrated the traffic flow and explained the planning process. J. LaPlante explained the map of the site plan.

Next slide showed the configuration of Bangs Community Center for voting and J. LaPlante reviewed the set-up for Bangs.

Next slide showed the configuration of use of Crocker Farm Library. J. LaPlante narrated the new traffic flow for voting.

Fort River School slide. J. LaPlante explained the use of the parking and traffic flow in and out of Fort River gymnasium. Detailed the new foot traffic pattern with separate entrance and exit doors.

No slide was available for Wildwood School. Use of Wildwood would require the use of a space other than the gymnasium.

Munson Building was reviewed, with a new traffic pattern detailed and narrated by J. LaPlante. It was noted that additional staffing would be necessary due to intersection of pedestrians and vehicular traffic areas. Alternative exits were discussed.

P. Bockelman noted that intricate traffic patterns would require more planning and all town employees would be asked to support the election on September 1, 2020 and November 3, 2020 from 7am – 8pm. It was mentioned that there would be Police Officers available for traffic moderation. P. Bockelman expressed confidence that all polling locations could be feasible as detailed.

President Griesemer asked for questions from Councilors.

Councilor Brewer asked P. Bockelman if employees who are at high risk would be asked to work elections. Councilor Brewer thanked P. Bockelman for the detailed plans for each polling location. Councilor Brewer noted that North Zion church also has a difficult traffic pattern and was not detailed this evening. Councilor Brewer would like reassurance about equity at all polling sites.

P. Bockelman responded that Department Heads had been asked to do a staffing poll and make sure they have people who are able to help on voting day. Department heads are pulling together to make sure the Town of Amherst can do this properly. P. Bockelman emphasized that the goal would be to minimize the number of people indoors and then streamline the voting traffic pattern.

Councilor Bahl-Milne acknowledged the work of the Town Staff and thanked them for the details and the focus on safety. Councilor Bahl-Milne asked why the cafeteria was not selected at Crocker Farm.

P. Bockelman responded that the library was selected because it is separate from the rest of the building and a space that is not going to be used during this calendar school year. Fire doors separate the library from the rest of the building.

Councilor Hanneke thanked J. LaPlante for the presentation. Councilor Hanneke asked which space would be used at Wildwood for voting.

P. Bockelman responded that the music room would be sufficient but a full analysis had not been completed yet. Superintendent Mike Morris would rather not have voting take place in the schools but realized that cannot be the case this year.

Councilor Pam asked if the Council would see a revised plan for the High School and the move of three precincts to the high school.

P. Bockelman noted that the traffic pattern would be the same but it would have more room since it would only be three precincts.

8.a.(2)d. Public Comment on Voting

Amherst Resident Sue Lowery (South Amherst) and would vote at Crocker Farm. Noted that there is not a PVTA bus on Shays Street and this new location of voting makes it tough for people without cars.

Amherst Zoe Crabtree – No comment

Amherst Resident Ludmila Pavlova-Gillam (North Amherst) – voted in Precinct 1. Will serve as Warden at the upcoming election cycle. Asked if the Town has consulted the Wardens with all the new traffic patterns at polling stations.

P. Bockelman responded that the bare minimum for set-up was reflected in the plans. P. Bockelman stated that specific areas for Wardens would be added to every polling location.

Amherst Resident Julian Hynes – thanked the Town Staff for the hard work on making elections democratic as possible. J. Hynes shared a student perspective.

Amherst Fire Chief Tim Nelson commented on the use of North Station. He explained how difficult it would be to continue fire station use as polling station during COVID 19. Safety of his staff is a paramount concern and force depletion is a real concern during a pandemic.

President Griesemer thanked Chief Nelson.

Amherst Resident Bailey Batty (North Whitney Street) from District 4 – Expressed that the schools as polling location would not be a conflict this year due to COVID 19.

Amherst Resident John Bonifaz (Resident of Amherst) – thanked the Councilors for voting for Option 2. Thanked the Councilors who voted last week who voted against the consolidation of voting locations to one spot in Town. Thanked the Residents of Amherst for raising their voices and pressing the Town Council to reconsider the vote.

Amherst Resident Terry Mullen (North East Street) – Expressed that the concerns of apartment complexes' residents have not been addressed. Important to weigh all of the voices equally.

S. Martin clarified that any changes to polling locations has to be 30 days before the day of the vote.

Councilor Schreiber commented that he voted previously for a centralized polling location based on the information from Health Director, Town Clerk, and Town Manager. He admired the clarity that everyone would vote at the High School. Every PVTA bus approximates 1/3 mile to the front door of the high school. Schreiber noted that many polling places are miles from where people live.

Councilor Brewer stated that she would not vote this evening on the November 3, 2020 polling locations. Councilor Brewer noted that the Town Council has to do more communication with the public. Acknowledged that the voting would have to be different due to global pandemic. Councilor Brewer suggested that two Town Council meetings need to be dedicated to review of the September 1 election.

Councilor Ryan agreed with Councilor Schreiber comments. All voting was done in good faith. Primary concern remains public health. Supported splitting the vote on polling locations by election dates.

Councilor DuMont expressed support for Option 2. Councilor DuMont suggested that there was a possibility for PVRTA to change the bus route on election day if we asked in advance.

S. Martin, spoke to the number of voters by mail: 5,000 individuals have asked for ballot by mail. Those voters would be voting by mail for both elections.

Councilor Pam supported Option 2. She applauded the move of three precincts to the high school. Providing transportation should still be discussed. Councilor Pam asked Martin if it would be possible to have a ballot box in other locations besides the Town Clerk's office.

Councilor Griesemer asked if there could be ballot boxes in other parts of town that could be secured. S. Martin answered no – since ballot boxes have to be under video surveillance.

Councilors debated Councilor Steinberg's motion.

Councilor Pam noted there are fourteen days of early voting available before the Presidential election. Many of the Councilors encouraged people to vote early. Further Council discussion focused upon the merits of separating the two voting events (September 1 and November 3, 2020) and related polling locations.

President Griesemer noted that two motions have been made.

Councilor Hanneke noted the motion to amend has to be voted before Steinberg's motion can be considered.

Hanneke took over on the motions to get Council through the rest of this.

Motion to divide from Steinberg on table and seconded.

Councilors discussed the motion further. Councilor Pam asked for clarification on the motion to divide. Councilor Hanneke explained the upcoming votes.

Town Attorney, Joel Bard, Esq., clarified and spoke to the election laws and the moving of polling locations. Attorney Bard drew attention to the language of the amendment that had just been voted. Bard agreed with Councilor Brewer, the amendment would apply to both dates. Given the specificity of the motion, the Council would have to vote again in the future for the polling locations for future voting dates.

Councilor Hanneke asked what the default locations would be for voting in the November 2021 elections. Bard answered that the default would default back to historic locations on the election warrants. President Griesemer noted that the changes are only for 2020, as stated by the motion.

Councilor Hanneke returned to the vote to divide the polling places by two separate dates.

MOTION: Councilor Steinberg moved, seconded by Councilor Schreiber, to divide the motion, one motion for each election date, September 1, 2020 and November 3, 2020. Council and the public would be afforded the flexibility to respond to the election experiences from September 1, 2020 Primary and better inform the polling locations for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election.

VOTED: 5-8 (Councilors Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Brewer voted Yes; Councilors DuMont,

Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Swartz, Bahl-Milne and De Angelis voted No) **MOTION FAILED.**

MOTION: To locate in-person voting on September 1, 2020 and November 3, 2020 at seven of the current eight polling sites and change three polling places to one new site at the Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street as follows:

- District 1, Voting Precinct 1: North Zion Korean Church, Church Hall, 1193 North Pleasant Street
- District 2, Voting Precinct 2: Amherst- Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street – Location Change
- District 1, Voting Precinct 3: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 4: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street – Location Change
- District 4, Voting Precinct 5: Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk
- District 2, Voting Precinct 6: Fort River School, 70 South East Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 7: Crocker Farm School, 280 West Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 8: Munson Memorial Library, South Amherst Common, 1046 South East Street
- District 4, Voting Precinct 9: Wildwood School, 71 Strong Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 10: Amherst- Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street – Location Change

Furthermore, this will have no disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income, or age. This change shall be in place for 2020. The Town shall study the election results and patterns by mail or in-person with an assessment of any disparate patterns by neighborhood, race, national origin, disability, income, or age and the results of new mail-voting and report back to inform possible future changes in 2021.

VOTED: 13-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted Yes).

Seven of the ten polling places will remain the same. Councilor Hanneke highlighted the polling places that would be moving.

Councilor Brewer expressed that the Council needed to listen to voters who showed up in person to vote. Councilor Brewer would like a commitment, as a Town Council, to listen to community feedback. There could easily be a serious problem with voting during a global pandemic.

President Griesemer committed to the idea of listening to voter feedback after the Primary Election.

Agenda item 8a(2): Elections: September 1, 2020 State Primary Election Warrant

MOTION: Councilor Hanneke moved, seconded by Councilor Schoen, to amend the current motion as follows: To add an “s” to the word “location” and to Strike the words “All Voting Precincts: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street.” and replace them with:

- District 1, Voting Precinct 1: North Zion Korean Church, Church Hall, 1193 North Pleasant Street

- District 2, Voting Precinct 2: Amherst- Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street
- District 1, Voting Precinct 3: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 4: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street
- District 4, Voting Precinct 5: Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk
- District 2, Voting Precinct 6: Fort River School, 70 South East Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 7: Crocker Farm School, 280 West Street
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- District 4, Voting Precinct 9: Wildwood School, 71 Strong Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 10: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street

VOTED: 13-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted Yes).

MOVED: To authorize the warrant for the State Primary Election on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, with polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the following locations:

- District 1, Voting Precinct 1: North Zion Korean Church, Church Hall, 1193 North Pleasant Street
- District 2, Voting Precinct 2: Amherst- Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street
- District 1, Voting Precinct 3: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 4: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street
- District 4, Voting Precinct 5: Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk
- District 2, Voting Precinct 6: Fort River School, 70 South East Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 7: Crocker Farm School, 280 West Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 8: Munson Memorial Library, South Amherst Common, 1046 South East Street
- District 4, Voting Precinct 9: Wildwood School, 71 Strong Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 10: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street

VOTED: 13-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted Yes).

Brief recess (5 minutes)

President Griesemer did a sound check for Councilors.

7. Presentations and Discussion

7.a.(1) Community Safety Discussion Presentation

Presentation by P. Bockelman, Town Manager. P. Bockelman used a prepared slide presentation to review the “alternative options” of providing services. Town Manager spoke to re-envisioning

community services to build a stronger more inclusive community. Examined more closely the Town funding priorities. P. Bockelman expressed his admiration and respect for the Amherst Police Force. P. Bockelman suggested ways to gather information and interview people about their experiences with the Town Police. Bockelman suggested that now is the time to listen.

P. Bockelman noted that now is the time to collect data and look at alternative models. People we need to listen to: Black and Brown residents, residents in areas that get most policed, business owners, Police Officers, and social service workers. Bockelman reviewed the need for more intervention in mental health situations.

P. Bockelman would like to move forward with listening sessions. P. Bockelman enumerated outreach groups. Look at working models that have had success. P. Bockelman noted that it is time to move forward and he appreciated the timeline the Town Council has set before him. The resources need to be put in place for the outreach and the ‘listening’ to happen.

7.a.(2) Council Comments

Councilor DuMont suggested that the Council hear from the public first.

7.a.(3) Public Comment

Amherst Resident Gio Castro (District 1) – Spoke in support of abolition of police force. Suggested that action needs to happen instead of ‘being heard.’ Does not support reforms.

Amherst Resident Jeff Mazur (Ridgecrest Road) – Concerned that there will be listening and not much action taken. Moving resources to social workers would benefit everyone in the Town. Amherst could be a leadership community and become the change we want to see in the world.

Amherst Resident Bailey Batte (District 4) – Research had been shared by email. Residents spoke of personal experiences. Batte wondered why Councilors are waiting to hear from experts before making changes to the status quo. Asked if the community would be heard and if the Town was ready to take some action.

Amherst Resident Allegra Clark (District 2) – 2003 ARHS grad. Forensic social worker and can describe how racism permeates all of the social justice system, and the police. Spoke to the “Cohoots” model from Eugene, Oregon and noted the focus on stabilization of the person in psychiatric need.

Amherst Resident Zoe Crabtree – Underscored the Town Manager’s comments and asked the Town Manager to pay people to share their experiences. Suggested that the \$80,000 (set aside by the Town Council) needed to be used to pay Black people for their expertise. Bockelman’s plan devalues the work that has already been done. Does not show that work leads to action. Promises to make changes would not be taken seriously – not like COVID 19 when real changes happen quickly.

Amherst Resident Demetria Shabazz – Thanked the Councilors for listening to the people. Thanked District 5 Councilors for hosting a listening session. Spoke to the abolition of policing in Amherst, MA. Not initially a supporter of this movement. Now she sees the sense in this movement towards non-armed and non-uniformed mental health checks. Spoke to the \$80,000 appropriation, Shabazz finds this amount insulting. Reparations need to take place. Use the monies to pay community elders and young people to create a Council to decide how Black people need to be represented in Amherst. Referred to the Civil War Plaques and how it has been over a decade since these memorials should have been placed in the community. Suggested that police oversight commission of the public needs to have subpoena power and

right past injustices. Shabazz reiterated that the amount of \$80,000 is insignificant. Referred to a document that is circulating town in terms of reparations due.

Amherst Resident Lydia Irons (District 4) – Community organizer who sent out a survey after the most recent budget process. Shared the responses to the survey in percentages. Addressed the accessibility of the zoom meetings and how it is difficult it is to participate in Town Council meetings right now. Asked to see a change in public safety.

Amherst Resident Elisha Walker (District 3) – Spoke to the cycle of trauma and violence that policing supports in Amherst. Spoke to the needs of youth in Amherst. Asked P. Bockelman to appoint teachers, leaders and social advocates to help do the work.

Amherst Resident Georgia Malcolm – Malcolm read a letter that she wrote to the Town Council. Shared a recent experience with the local police and her young Black son. Malcolm argued that anti-bias and anti-racist training needed to become a priority for this Town. Called for collaboration and bring people to the table who have lived the experiences.

Amherst Resident Mica Ben Alvez (Echo Hill) – Has lived in Amherst for four years. He shared a personal experience. Asked the Councilors to expand their imagination for what might be possible in terms of community response to Black and Brown kids.

7.a.(2) Town Council Discussion (taken out of order) - President Griesemer asked for Councilor Comments

Councilor Pam asked questions she wrote down during P. Bockelman's presentation. Councilor Pam wondered what happened to the homeless person who was recently confronted by the Amherst Police Department in front of the Jones Library. Councilor Pam would not like to hear about generalizations she would like some more research and also asked where that research would feed into the response.

Councilor Bahl-Milne stated it was difficult to hear the first person stories for how people feel in our community. Councilor Bahl-Milne Mentioned human-centered design (Chapel Hill, NC) to help re-define the question and the scope of the response.

Councilor De Angelis spoke to the need for systemic changes designed by people of Color. Each segment of the BIPOC community to share information. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) shared their experiences with De Angelis. Reiterated that she would like to serve the entire community and asked people to meet with her. Further commented on the public dialog and the need to move forward with change.

Councilor Brewer suggested that is time to do 'actual things.' Reiterated that just talking about things will not force change. Detailed that the \$80,000 have not be appropriated to any organization yet. Councilor Brewer would like updates at every meeting from the Town Manager and the Councilors.

Councilor Swartz expressed that she had been moved by first person narratives this evening. Councilor Swartz stated it was time for action. She admitted her own biases. Councilor Swartz would support a movement towards public support and safety instead of more policing. Councilor Swartz suggested that there need to be deadlines and the Council needs to do something that shows people that they are being heard.

President Griesemer asked Councilors to focus on next steps. President Griesemer asked P. Bockelman to look at those alternative models that funds different ways to deal with mental illness, homelessness and drug addiction. President Griesemer asked that the Councilors move forward with the agenda.

Councilor Pam suggested that the Town fund access to the internet all over the Town. It is expensive but it would make a difference in peoples' lives.

Councilor Ryan spoke to the Town Service and Outreach Committee (TSO) and he believed that the conversation might start there. Councilors cannot address this issue as a 13-member body. President Griesemer acknowledged that would be a good place to start but asked that TSO work in concert with the Town Manager.

7.b. Higher Education Students Return Updates

Presentations and comments were made by: Nancy Buffone (UMass Amherst, Associate Vice Chancellor for University Relations), Tony Maroulis (UMass Amherst, Executive Director of External Relations and University Events), Jeffrey Hescoock (UMass Amherst, Executive Director of EH&S and Emergency Management)

N. Buffone shared the update for move-in/arrival and the UMass compact/student agreement. Slide shared was the new UMass plan for all remote learning. The plans have changed due to changes in COVID 19 virus spread. High level of positive engagement from undergraduate students and promise to abide by the terms of the compact. UMass Staff are following up with individuals who have not signed the agreement.

T. Maroulis spoke to the Campus and Town teamwork. Pro-active outreach to student renters. UMass works with Officer Laramee, and Jon Thompson (Town of Amherst Rental Inspector/Enforcement), and worked with Councilors' District Meetings. T. Maroulis spoke to the volatility in the rental market. UMass follows up on all noise and nuisance calls made to the Amherst Police Department. UMass Community Agreement viewed as a 'new tool in the tool box.' T. Maroulis enumerated the many ways that UMass staff interact with all neighboring Towns to intervene when needed.

N. Buffone explicitly stated the different educational campaigns and slogans that the University is using to inform students of the expectations.

Jeff Hescoock (UMass Amherst, Executive Director of EH&S and Emergency Management) Commented on the plans for UMass testing and the teamwork with Board of Health in the Town of Amherst. J. Hescoock reviewed the protocols for contact tracing and increasing the workforce to make contact tracing a priority. J. Hescoock mentioned that symptomatic testing has been happening on campus since last spring. J. Hescoock noted that there is currently a one-day turn around with lab on campus. Students, employees, faculty, staff can all get tested on the UMass campus. Asymptomatic testing center will be opening on campus in the Mullins center (9am – 5pm) Monday through Friday starting next weekend. All students will get tested. Twice a week surveillance testing for all on-campus students and all students involved in face-to-face classes. Weekly testing of employees, researchers and faculty members. Adaptive testing program will respond to community trends. Strong partnership with college of nursing, University health services, and facilities management. Contracted with Brode Institute. Self-administered but observed test.

7.b.(2) Questions from the Councilors

Councilor Pam asked if there was a possibility of testing Amherst townspeople.

J. Hescocock answered that the testing facilities are open to all members of the UMass community but not the community-at-large. UMass will be doing 10,000 tests/week.

Councilor Ryan asked about the student agreement compact. Buffone responded that there has been a high level of involvement. T. Maroulis answered Ryan's question by stating that social gatherings, a number had not been set, for limits on social gatherings.

Councilor Hanneke asked about follow-ups on large gatherings and how UMass would handle reports of large parties. What would be the UMass plan? T. Maroulis stated that UMass would respond to gatherings in the same way that they respond to noise and nuisance complaints. T. Maroulis noted that egregious complaints would bring immediate disciplinary action.

Councilor Ryan asked if UMass would need an official Police report in order to take action. T. Maroulis responded that it would be a case-by-case basis. T. Maroulis noted the dedicated phone line that would soon be up to address COVID concerns and University students.

Councilor Schoen asked how the neighbors would know that there is a phone number and an email that they can use to report gatherings of multiple people. Councilor Schoen would like to know how people would find out about the hotlines. P. Bockelman stated it was a Town initiative to gather the reports of mask enforcement, gatherings, and COVID concerns. Staffing would be regular and respond in real-time.

Councilors further discussed the UMass plan for active response to complaints. Councilors reviewed the compact information and asked follow-up questions about the number of signed compacts.

N. Buffone stated that the UMass compact/agreement is on the UMass website.

President Griesemer thanked N. Buffone, T. Maroulis and J. Hescocock for attending this meeting.

12. Town Manager Report re: BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATION – Mask Order – reviewed by P. Bockelman

P. Bockelman responded to Councilor Bahl-Milne's question regarding the line in the mask order that references police intervention. P. Bockelman reported that was being reviewed by the Board of Health (BOH).

Councilor Pam asked why the mandatory mask initiative had not been expanded to three centers of Town. Councilor Pam asked why the bike path was not included in the mask order.

President Griesemer's internet feed was frozen.

Councilor Pam would like the Council to vote on a motion to limit group gatherings to ten people.

Councilor Brewer asked what the Town was going to do regarding using the Police to enforce the mask order and the Governor Baker's orders in regards to gatherings (indoor and outdoors).

P. Bockelman noted the Town of Amherst would use ambassadors to educate the public about the importance of wearing a mask. Ambassadors would travel with Police to off-hour parties and the Board of Health will review the role of Police during this pandemic.

Councilor Schoen asked P. Bockelman what Councilors should do to get mask initiative extended outside of downtown to all three village centers.

Councilor Ryan would appreciate the BOH perspective on the large gatherings of people without masks. Councilor Ryan asked if the Councilors should consider a more restrictive number. P. Bockelman would ask the Health Director for a memo or an opinion on the limits to public gatherings both indoor and outdoor. In addition, he would ask about feasibility of extending mask order.

MOTION: Councilor Brewer moved, seconded by Councilor George, to request that the Board of Health report to the Town Council, as soon as possible (no later than August 31, 2020), whether they would consider extending the Mask Order to all Village centers and University Drive; And to provide advice to the Town Council on the feasibility of amending Governor Baker’s Order #46 to further restrict the number of individuals permitted at social gatherings.

VOTED: 13-0-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes)

Councilor Pam asked for amendment to include all village centers.

Councilor Bahl-Milne asked for enforcement to come with ambassadors and not with the Police.

P. Bockelman gave an overview of the Ambassadors Program. Task would be to create a “culture of compliance.” The idea would be to hire college students as ambassadors.

Councilor Brewer revisited the Governor’s order and noted that never more than 25 people.

14. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting - Discussion as to delay the remaining agenda items

Councilor Hanneke expressed concern about delaying the zoning bylaw 11.250 amendment.

President Griesemer asked C. Brestrup if there was a rush on Valley CDC, 132 Northampton Road hearings. C. Brestrup answered end of September was the deadline for Valley CDC.

Master Plan Update could be deferred. C. Brestrup was able to respond.

President Griesemer suggested deferring Valley CDC Project at 132 Northampton Road – Local Option to the Town Council Meeting on August 31, 2020.

Other postponed items: Master Plan Update and Capital Inventory Update to August 31, 2020.

Councilor De Angelis mentioned that committee reports are in the packet and should be read by all Councilors.

Councilor Ross asked that the Planning items be first agenda items to be considered by the Councilors on the following Town Council meeting agenda.

8.c. Zoning Bylaw 11.250 Amendment – Second Reading, Charter 2.10(a)

Councilor Hanneke reviewed the CRC report. Reviewed the previous votes of support from the Planning Board and the CRC. Councilor Hanneke asked Councilor Swartz to speak on the minority CRC report.

Councilor Swartz shared, that in the minority opinion, with the bylaw amendment approved, it would leave too few people voting on the zoning bylaw. Councilor Swartz reiterated that she was uncomfortable that it was only three individuals voting.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved and Councilor Hanneke seconded to amend Zoning Bylaw 11.250, Planning Board Decision, to delete the phrase “at least two thirds (2/3), but not fewer than five (5),” and replace it with the words “a majority,” so that the Section 11.250 reads: “The concurring vote of a majority, *but no fewer than 4*, of the members of the Board participating and voting shall be required for any decision on a site plan application (abstaining members being considered not to be voting).”

Councilor Hanneke noted the numbers and how they would play out based on the number of people present at the meeting.

**Councilor Schoen suggested an amendment of, “no fewer than 4”
Seconded by Councilor Pam.**

Councilor DuMont opined it was unnecessary to change the original site plan review bylaw. Supports the Councilor Schoen compromise.

Councilor Hanneke noted the next vote would be to vote on the amendment only.

Councilor Hanneke pointed out that the Chair of the Planning Board was in attendance.

Councilor Ross commented that Amherst is trying to branding itself as a Town that is “open to business” and the opinions of the super majority of the Planning Board and the CRC should be considered. Important to note that the people who are implementing this went for a super majority.

Councilor Bahl-Milne asked C. Brestrup to explain a Site Plan Review for all the Councilors.

C. Brestrup gave a brief explanation of Site Plan Review to the Councilors. The Planning Board looks at the details of the plan and not the use of the space. The physicality of the plan.

Councilor Schreiber encouraged Councilors to respect the vote of the Planning Board and CRC on this issue.

Councilor Pam worried about gamesmanship and coercion. She noted that the abstention of voting could reduce numbers alarmingly.

Vote on the Amendment (add in phrase no fewer than 4): (4-9-0) (Councilors Brewer, DuMont, Pam, Schoen, voted YES; Councilor Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted NO). **AMENDMENT FAILED.**

Zoning Bylaw 11.250 Amendment – Second Reading, *Charter Sec. 2.10(a)*

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, Councilor Hanneke seconded, to amend Zoning Bylaw 11.250, Planning Board Decision, to delete the phrase “at least two thirds (2/3), but not fewer than five (5),” and replace it with the words “a majority,” so that the Section 11.250 reads: “The concurring vote of a majority of the members of the Board participating and voting shall be required for any decision on a site

plan application (abstaining members being considered not to be voting).”

VOTED: 9-4-0 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors DuMont, Pam, Schoen and Swartz voted No)
Bylaw Amendment Passes by required 2/3 of the Full Town Council in favor.

Agenda Items Deferred until August 31, 2020 meeting of the Town Council:
Valley CDC Project
Capital Inventory
Master Plan Update
Approval of Minutes

President Griesemer asked if the Councilors had questions on the Town Manager Report. There were no questions.

13. Town Council Comments - None

Further topics – None

President Griesemer declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40pm on August 10, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Mills
Minute Taker

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented
00. 08-10-2020 FINAL Town Council Agenda
00. 08-10-2020 Draft Motions for Town Council with attachment
7.a. Community Safety in Amherst 08-03-2020 FINAL
7.b.1.a. BOH Mask Order August 2020
7.b.1.c. News and Announcements – Town and UMass Establish COVID-19 Working Group
8.a. 2020 Election Season Facts
8.a. Slides – Voting Precinct and Proposed Poll Locations
8.a. Election Polling Locations 07-20-2020
8.a. Option 2 (with options) - Amherst Town Council Report on Polling Places 2020 as of 8-5-2020
8.a. Original Option – Option 1 Amherst Town Council Report on Polling Place Consolidation as of 7-30-2020
8.a.1. Amherst Town Council Report on Polling place Consolidation with slides
8.a.1. Polling locations Vote by Mail applications News and Announcements 07-21-20
8.a.2. September 1 2020 State Primary Election Warrant
8.b. Draft Letter re Local Preference at 132 Northampton Road as of 7-27-2020
8.b. ZBA-local preference (1)
8.c. 2020-06-24 CRC Report to Town Council
8.c. Article 11, Section 11.25, Planning Board Decision – Amendment
8.c. Hanneke Motion to Amend Zoning Bylaw 11.250
8.c. Memo-2019-02-28 – Planning Board Voting Requirements
8.c. Minority Report to TC Article 11 final to town council
8.c. PB SPR Approvals last year
8.c. Report to TC on Article 11 SPR Voting Requirements FINAL

8.c. Schoen Substitute Motion
8.c. SPR Decision Voting Requirements Summary
8.d. Master Plan Update Request – Council Minutes of 2-10-20 p 9-10
8.e. Capital Inventory Memo – 08-03-2020
10.a. 2020-07-29 CRC Report to Town Council
10.c. 2020-08-03 GOL Report to Town Council
10.f. Board of Health Liaison Report to Town Council 8-03-20
11.a. 07-28-2020 DRAFT Town Council School Committee Minutes – Crocker Farm Expansion
Presentation revised 8-3-20
12. Town Manager Report 08-03-2020
Governors Order Regulating Gatherings
SLIDE Timing and order of the Agenda 08-10-2020 Town Council Agenda
Timeline for Town Manager FY20 Evaluation – Draft as 7-6-2020
TOA Polling locations
Umass Students in Amherst Area – Amherst Fall 2020