



**Town of Amherst  
Special Meeting of the Town Council  
Public Forum Regarding an Appropriation Not in the Annual Budget  
Monday, January 4, 2020  
6:45 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes**

*Complete video is available online: <https://youtu.be/60sdpUVA64Y>*

**1. Call to Order**

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

Councilors Absent: None

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Planning Director Christine Brestrup, Building Commissioner Rob Morra, Health Director Emma Dragon, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, IT Director Sean Hannon

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 8:27 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. Presentations and Discussion**

**a. Council Order FY21-#21-08A: An Order Authorizing the Acquisition of Belchertown Road Property for Community Housing Purposes**

Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek spoke briefly about the project.

Affordable Housing Chair John Hornik spoke about the urgent need for housing, affordable housing projects in Amherst, and the current project request.

Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) Chair Sarah Marshall conveyed the committee’s unanimous and enthusiastic support for the project, the committee was pleased to learn the purchase was successfully negotiated at a lower price than anticipated. Marshall spoke about the goals of the CPAC, and the hope that the Council will approve the borrowing request.

**3. Public Comment – More than one-half of the meeting time on the agenda will be devoted to public comment**

**a. Public Forum – Charter Sec. 5.6 – Regarding an appropriation outside the annual budget: Council Order FY21-08A: An Order Authorizing the Acquisition of Belchertown Road Property for Community Housing Purposes**

Elisa spoke in favor of the project.

Linda Slakey, Amherst resident and president of the Amherst Community Land Trust spoke in favor of the project.

Janet Keller, Amherst resident and board member of Amherst Community Land Trust spoke in support of the project.

Kitty Axelson-Berry, Amherst resident, asked about the square footage of the proposed project.

Rob Morra spoke about the concept plan, which includes outdoor space for playground and space.

Adrienne Terrizzi, Amherst resident, speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters, spoke in enthusiastic support of the project and urged the Council to support the project and approve the appropriation.

There were no other members of the public asking questions of speaking in support or opposition to the project.

President Griesemer thanked John Hornik, Sarah Marshall, David Ziomek and others. The Council will vote on the project on January 25, after review by the Finance Committee and Community Resources Committee.

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

**5. Adjourn**

President Griesemer declared the special meeting of the Town Council adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena O'Keeffe

Clerk of the Council

**Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented**

00. 01-04-2021 Draft Motions for Town Council as of 01-04-21

00. 01-04-2021 Draft Motions for Town Council as of 12-23-20

00. 01-04-2021 FINAL Special Town Council Agenda

00. 01-04-2021 FINAL Special Town Council Agenda - Public Forum Appropriation Belchertown Rd Acquisition  
01-04-2021 FINAL Town Council Agenda  
12. Town Manager Report 01-04-2021  
14. Proclamation in Support of a National Day of Recollection\_FINAL DRAFT  
15. Election of officers script  
2.a. Belchertown Road Acquisition Presentation 12-21-20 TC  
6.a. 2021 MLK Jr. Proclamation Corrected - as voted at GOL  
6.a. Black History Month Proclamation 2021 - as voted at GOL  
7.a. COVID-19 Town Council Presentation 01-04-2021  
7.b. Pomeroy Village MassWorks Grant Process Memo - 01-04-2021  
8.a. Capital Inventory memo  
8.b. DRAFT Memo to Jones Library re Ren Expan vs. Repair amended as of 01-03-2021(a1)  
8.c. Memo re Required and Possible Agenda Items in 2021 as of 12-27-2020 \_Composite as of 01-03-2021  
Zoning Priorities Motion - Motion to Subsitute a Revised Amended Motion. 1.4.2021 CS  
Zoning Priorities Motion - Motion to Subsitute a Revised Amended Motion. 1.4.2021 CS CLEAN (1)