



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 8, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Minutes**

Complete video is available online: <https://youtu.be/hDsVun0WANY>

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, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, Minute Taker Lindsey McConnell, and Amherst Farmer’s Market representatives David Machowski and John Spineti,

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

President Griesemer announced the Town Services and Outreach (TSO) Committee is holding two public forums coming up regarding the Pomeroy Intersection. Griesemer announced agenda item 8.s North Common will be moved to a future agenda.

Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

- March 22, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – Public Forum – Community Preservation Act Budget
- March 22, 2021, 6:45 p.m. – Regular Town Council Meeting
- April 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Town Council Meeting
- April 12, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Town Council Meeting

Upcoming Council Committee Meetings:

- Community Resources Committee: March 9, 3:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee: March 16, 2:00 p.m.
- Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee: March 17, 10:30 a.m.
- Town Services and Outreach Committee Regular Meeting: March 11, 5:00 p.m.

- Town Services and Outreach Committee Public Forums on Pomeroy Village intersection:
 - Thursday, March 25, 6:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, March 27, 2:00 p.m.
- Joint Capital Planning Committee: March 11, 7:00 p.m., March 18, 7:00 p.m.

Tibet Day flag-raising ceremony on March 10 at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall

All meeting agendas and details are posted at www.AmherstMA.gov/Calendar

COVID-19 Call-in Number and Email: The COVID-19 Concern Line (413) 259-2425 and email address covidconcerns@amherstma.gov are now available for residents to communicate their concerns about masks, social distancing, gatherings, etc.

3. Hearings- *None*

4. General Public Comment

Alex Kent, Amherst resident, voiced strong support for retaining Footnote “M” in Zoning bylaws and spoke about the need to preserve downtown neighborhoods by protecting them from being overrun by non-owner occupied rentals.

Christopher Riddle, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the Resolution Calling for Swift, Just Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth. Riddle spoke about the benefits of the resolution including encouraging the state take actions that would allow towns and cities to set more rigorous standards for building.

Gina Etheredge spoke in favor of retaining Footnote “M” in the Zoning bylaws. Etheredge stated she and her partner fell in love with Amherst when their son was a student here and they would not want to completely relocate here if the character of the historic district were to change.

Henry Winter, Amherst resident, spoke against Zoning Bylaw changes that would allow individual lots to be developed in to apartments because it would increase rent and the number of people in the apartments and therefore number of cars needing to park on the street. They stated the proposed plans will completely change the neighborhood for parking needs and students will come in because of financial constraints of the developments.

Anne Burton, Amherst resident, spoke against removing Footnote “M” and about the need to make a decision about the desired character of the Town. Burton stated allowing condos to be built next to homes will impact ability to sell the homes. Burton stated the domino effect from removing Footnote “M” will chart the future of all the blocks that have private homes and if that happens, she will sell her home before it is too late.

5. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda: The following items were selected because they were considered to be routine and it was reasonable to expect they would pass with no controversy. To remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting, ask that it be removed when the President lists the consent agenda items. The request to remove an item from the consent agenda does not require a second.

- Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for agenda item 8.c.(1) Public Way Request: Farmer’s Market
- 6.a. Adoption of the 2021 Tibet Day Proclamation
- 6.b. Adoption of the Resolution Calling for Swift, Just Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth

- 8.d. Public Way Policy Revisions
- 11.a. Approval of Minutes:
 - February 22, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

Schoen requested February 22, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes be removed because she has requested edits for the minutes.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilors Hanneke and Steinberg, to move the following items and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for agenda item 8.c.(1) Public Way Request: Farmer’s Market
- 6.a. Adoption of the 2021 Tibet Day Proclamation
- 6.b. Adoption of the Resolution Calling for Swift, Just Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth
- 8.d. Public Way Policy Revisions

VOTED unanimously, 13-0 by roll call, to move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for agenda item 8.c.(1) Public Way Request: Farmer’s Market
- 6.a. Adoption of the 2021 Tibet Day Proclamation
- 6.b. Adoption of the Resolution Calling for Swift, Just Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth
- 8.d. Public Way Policy Revisions

6. Resolutions and Proclamations

a. 2021 Tibet Day Proclamation

VOTED via consent agenda to adopt the 2021 Tibet Day Proclamation, as presented.

b. Resolution Calling for Swift, Just Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth

VOTED via consent agenda to adopt the Resolution Calling for Swift, Just Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth, as presented.

7. Presentations and Discussion- None

8. Action Items

a. North Common- President Griesemer announced this item will be moved to a future agenda.

b. Wayfinding Signs

DuMont reported the Town Services and Outreach Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Council approve the Town Manager request to place Wayfindings signs in the Public Way. DuMont stated issues brought up at the previous Council meeting were looked at and answers were investigated and are covered in the Town Manger’s report.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Ryan, to approve the wayfinding sign system and to allow for their placement in the public way.

VOTED 12-0-1 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor DuMont abstained) to approve the wayfinding sign system and to allow for their placement in the public way.

c. Public Way Requests

(1) Farmers Market

Bockelman spoke about the success of the Farmers' Market last year on the Town common and the current expectations the pandemic will continue to limit other activities in the Common. Bockelman stated the proposal is the same as last year with small modifications to parking. Bockelman asked the situation changes with the pandemic that the Council will allow the Town Manager to make changes based on instructions of the Health Department.

Councilors asked questions about the use of the Common and operation of the Farmers' Market including:

- One way traffic pattern and the ability to go back to a vendor without walking all the way around to re-enter.
- Number of parking spots reserved for vendors and uncovering meters of unused vendor spots so they are available for the public
- If the Market will want to continue to be on the Common next year as well

Machowski responded the requests vendor parking spots allow for bigger vehicles and some trailers and spoke about the intention to adjust the location of the Market within the Common and needed vendor parking with the season, number of vendors and parking spaces used.

Machowski stated being on the Common is nice for the Town but does create more work to police the whole area hard to say and spoke about the spaciousness of the Common allowing for people to work backwards as the season wears on.

Spinetti stated the Common is great and spoke about the possible need to move back to Spring Street if it is a wetter, muddier year. Spinetti the market has never had to cancel a date in the 50 years it's been happening.

VOTED via consent agenda to suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Schoen, to approve the AMHERST FARMERS MARKET Long-Term Event Use reservation of the Town Common (South portion) under Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways, and, further, to approve the reservation at no charge FOR VENDOR PARKING of the first fifteen metered parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street originating at Spring Street moving south towards College Street, and further to approve the reservation at no charge FOR VENDOR PARKING of the first 21 metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue originating at Spring Street moving south towards College Street, and further to approve the reservation at no charge for customer curbside pick-up only of the first (one) parking space on the southwest portion of the Spring Street parking lot to be clearly marked BY THE AMHERST FARMERS MARKET, to accommodate the Amherst Farmers Market each Saturday beginning April 17, 2021 and continuing through November 20, 2021 from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and further to require that the Amherst Farmer's Market, John Spinetti, Market Manager, sign a written agreement to comply with all Operational Guidelines set forth in the Town Manager Memo March 4, 2021 "Amherst Farmers Market Application", and further to authorize the Town Manager to continue to

modify these Operational Guidelines THROUGH NOVEMBER 20 2021 in response to the continuing COVID-19 State of Emergency and OTHER LOCAL CONCERNS, and, additionally, to allow the Town Manager to schedule concurrent use of the south portion of the Town Common for one-day events.

VOTED 12-1 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilor Swartz voted No) to approve the AMHERST FARMERS MARKET Long-Term Event Use reservation of the Town Common (South portion) under Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways, and, further, to approve the reservation at no charge FOR VENDOR PARKING of the first fifteen metered parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street originating at Spring Street moving south towards College Street, and further to approve the reservation at no charge FOR VENDOR PARKING of the first 21 metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue originating at Spring Street moving south towards College Street, and further to approve the reservation at no charge for customer curbside pick-up only of the first (one) parking space on the southwest portion of the Spring Street parking lot to be clearly marked BY THE AMHERST FARMERS MARKET, to accommodate the Amherst Farmers Market each Saturday beginning April 17, 2021 and continuing through November 20, 2021 from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and further to require that the Amherst Farmer’s Market, John Spinetti, Market Manager, sign a written agreement to comply with all Operational Guidelines set forth in the Town Manager Memo March 4, 2021 “Amherst Farmers Market Application”, and further to authorize the Town Manager to continue to modify these Operational Guidelines THROUGH NOVEMBER 20 2021 in response to the continuing COVID-19 State of Emergency and OTHER LOCAL CONCERNS, and, additionally, to allow the Town Manager to schedule concurrent use of the south portion of the Town Common for one-day events.

d. Public Way Policy Revisions

VOTED via consent agenda to amend the Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways, as recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of February 22, 2021, and Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee report of February 22, 2021, by adding the language shown in **bold** and removing the language shown in ~~strikethrough~~:

In the first section:

Under Section 2.14 of the Amherst Home Rule Charter, the Town Council “shall control and regulate the public ways.” (Keeper of the Public Way) Under this authority, the Town Council hereby adopts this policy, which delegates a portion of its authority to control and regulate the Public Ways to the Town Manager **and certain other Department Heads under the jurisdiction of the Town Manager**. The Town Council reserves the right, at any time, to revise or rescind this policy.

In section 1.c.:

Requests for reservations, construction of structures, or other uses that are intended to be permanent, in place 3 months or longer, or that are not associated with specific events but exempting maintenance and repairs **conducted in the normal course of business**.

In section 3.:

Reservations of Public Ways – Road or Sidewalk Closures, **Signage and Seating**

a. Placement of Road and Temporary Signs: All placements of signs that relate to the control of the public way (crosswalk, speed limit, yield, stop, etc.) and placements of moveable signs not covered by the General or Zoning Bylaw.

i. Town Council delegates the review and action authority to the Town

Manager, with a monthly report of all requests and approvals provided to the Town Council.

[Sections 3.a.-c. omitted for brevity; no changes]

d.e. Permanent or Other Requests for Permanent Changes to the Public Way: All permanent changes to roads or sidewalks (placement of utility structures, bus shelters, benches, permanent signs, electric vehicle and other charging stations, bikeshare stations, addition or removal of crosswalks, etc.), major roadway and sidewalk redesigns, but exempting maintenance, and , or other Public Way requests relating to roads (as opposed to parking or commons) not detailed above, but exempting maintenance and repairs conducted in the normal course of business.

- i. Town Council remains Keeper of the Public Way and will review and take action as follows:
 1. Prior to taking action, consult with the Town Engineer, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Town Manager and comply with Massachusetts General Laws and Regulations.

f. Acceptance of Public Ways:

- i. **Town Council remains Keeper of the Public Way and will review and take action as follows:**
 - 1. Prior to taking action, consult with the Town Engineer, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Town Manager and comply with Massachusetts General Laws and Regulations.**

e. Amendments to Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 6.3.d and 6.3.e

Ryan referred to packet item 8.e. Proposed Revisions to ROP - 2021-03-08. Ryan stated Rule 6.3.d was broken in to two separate items to further clarify when interruptions are allowed and Rule 6.3.e was added to clarify when a councilor without recognition.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Ryan, to amend Town Council Rules of Procedure 6.3.d. by striking everything after the phrase "point of order" and replacing it with the phrase "or to raise a question of privilege." and to insert a new Section 6.3.e that reads "Councilors shall not speak without recognition except as in Subsection d above, or to doubt the presence of a quorum, or to call the previous question, or to assert the Charter Right to Postpone." and to re-letter all subsequent sections of Rule 6.3.

Brewer spoke in favor of the changes clarifying the difference between speaking without recognition and interrupting. Brewer spoke against allowing a councilor to speak without recognition to assert the Charter Right to Postpone. Brewer stated this nuclear option is undemocratic and questioned why the rules are privileging it.

Ryan stated the Charter Right to Postpone is a right all councilors have and Governance, Organization and Legislation Committee (GOL) proposed these changes to clarify that councilors cannot interrupt the speaker to utilize it.

Steinberg questioned if the proposed changes solve any problems and spoke against the ability for the first person who speaks to call the question. Steinberg suggested the wording of the rules needs more clarification and stated making a motion without debate frustrates the motion of the Council and the Charter's intent.

Schoen echoed Steinberg and Brewer's concerns.

Ryan spoke against a rule that requires discussion before the question is called and spoke about the super majority needed to move to a vote. Ryan stated GOL's intent was to clarify when interruptions are allowed and when a Councilor can speak without recognition.

DuMont spoke in favor of a rule that the question cannot be called unless Councilors have had a chance to debate and about the scenario where some part of the Council can prevent others from discussing a topic.

Schreiber questioned the need for rules that reiterate Robert's Rules, pointed to times the Council doesn't follow these rules and spoke again Councilors having the ability to call things out. Schreiber spoke about the purpose seconding a motion, and stated the opinion it is inappropriate for same person to second and motion and call the question. Schreiber spoke in favor of rule that states only one action can per turn to speak.

Hanneke spoke about the right to postpone, its use by Councilors in the past, and stated to fully fulfill the Charter this right has to be allowed without being recognized. Hanneke spoke about the reiterating Robert's Rules as a way to educate Councilors and the public on procedures. Hanneke spoke in favor of being able to call the question without recognition, the amount it may take to wait for a turn if it can not be done without recognition and the role of the vote to ensure debate occurs for contentious issues.

Pam spoke against rules that over complicate procedures, lead to gothic games and intimidate people from thinking they can be a Councilor.

Brewer questioned if this clarification solves the problem of differentiating between interrupting and not being recognized. Brewer spoke about the impact the Charter Right to Postpone has on the Council's ability to debate.

Ryan spoke in favor of the changes and suggested if the Council wants a new rule about calling the question it can be sent to GOL.

Bahl-Milne spoke in favor of clarifications and sending this back to GOL to consider the issues regarding calling the previous question. Bahl-Milne stated the goal of hearing minority opinion and questioned the premise that a super majority can use calling the question to save time.

Schreiber spoke about the Council president's role in keeping an orderly meeting and the desire for trust that the president will keep the flow of the meeting going including ruling things out of order.

Pam spoke the burden needing to keep complicated rules in mind so split second decisions can be made about the process.

VOTED 6-6-1 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Hanneke, Ross, Ryan, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors Brewer, DuMont, Pam, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted No; President Griesemer Abstained) to amend Town Council Rules of Procedure 6.3.d. by striking everything after the phrase "point of order" and replacing it with the phrase "or to raise a question of privilege." and to insert a new Section 6.3.e that reads "Councilors shall not speak without recognition except as in Subsection d above, or to doubt the presence of a quorum, or to call the previous question, or to assert the Charter Right to Postpone." and to re-letter all subsequent sections of Rule 6.3.

The motion failed.

Council moved on to discuss amending Rule of Procedure 6.3.e. by changing the numeral "3" to the numeral "2".

DuMont spoke against limiting speaking time to 2 minutes, stated enforcing the existing 3-minute rule would achieve shortening the meetings, spoke about the importance of all voices being heard.

Schoen spoke against limiting speaking time to 2 minutes, stated most people speak quickly and spoke about the purpose of debate.

MOTION: Councilor Hanneke moved, seconded by Councilor Ryan, to amend Town Council Rule of Procedure 6.3.e. by changing the numeral “3” to the numeral “2”.

Schreiber spoke against the motion and spoke against the ability to yield time.

Ross spoke about how a change from 3 to 2 minutes could impact the way Councilor’s speak and the number of question they can ask. Ross stated willingness to try the 2-minute limit as long as the total number of times a Councilor can speak is not limited. Ross stated if could help Councilors pare down statements, keep conversation moving, and produce better debate.

Bahl- Milne spoke against the motion and about the additional time is takes for people whose first language is other than English is second language to speak.

De Angelis spoke in favor of the motion and spoke about the rhythm of debate facilitating interaction. De Angelis agreed with the idea of not yielding time.

Pam spoke about the impact of rules being set for future Councils and the goal of a more diverse council composed of people with different speaking styles.

Hanneke spoke in favor of the motion, about the amount of time it could take to be able to speak if all people for 3 minutes.

Ryan spoke in favor of the motion and trying 2 minute limit to see if it helps achieve the goal of shorter meetings. Ryan spoke in favor of dropping the last sentence in the Rule about yielding.

Swartz spoke in favor of the motion, and about the benefits of a shorter speaking time including structure and constructive civil conversation.

DuMont questioned the idea 2 minutes will shorten meetings since there is no limit to the number of times people speak.

Schreiber spoke about the benefit of a lightning round to give everyone the chance to say their most important points out first.

Bahl- Milne spoke about the signal this sends to people who have English as second language and the point Hanneke raised about needing to wait a long time to speak when everyone has 3 minutes. Bahl- Milne spoke about the goal of finding a solution like Schreiber’s initial suggestion of lightening round does not signal only fast, fluent speakers can be on the Council and still allows for the spirit of debate and space.

Griesemer stated the 3 minutes clock instituted clock in January has helped enormously and spoke about the strategy of asking Councilor to only ask their top two question in the library discussion in the previous meeting. Griesemer expressed concern about the impact a 2 minute language limit would have on people with English as a second language.

MOTION: Councilor Ross moved, second by Councilor Hanneke, to amend the motion to strike from rule 6.3e. “A Councilor may yield all or part of this time to another Councilor.”

VOTED 11-2 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors DuMont and Schoen voted No) to amend the motion to strike from rule 6.3e. “A Councilor may yield all or part of this time to another Councilor.”

MOTION: Councilor Hanneke moved, second by Councilor Ryan, to divide the question.

VOTED unanimously, 13-0 by roll call, to divide the question.

VOTED 12-1 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor DuMont voted No) to amend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 6.3.e. by striking “A Councilor may yield all or part of this time to another Councilor.”

Bahl-Milne asked about changing the motion to achieve the goals of hearing everyone, keeping the debate momentum going, and keeping it accessible.

Griesemer spoke about a rule versus leadership style and stated a rule like that may be more detailed than the Council wants.

Ross asked if someone has the ability to request more time from the chair.

Griesemer stated that was a rule in Town Meeting and does not think that is a Council rule.

Griesemer restated the motion on the table is to amend Town Council rules by changing numeral 3 to numeral 2.

DuMont asked for assurance if the number of minutes is reduced Councilors will still have the ability to speak more than once.

Griesemer stated Councilors always have the ability to speak again unless the question is called.

Hanneke stated there is never a guarantee for a Councilor to speak, if a motion is made to call the question and it is voted on by a 2/3 majority.

VOTED 6 -7 by roll call (Councilors De Angelis, Hanneke, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, DuMont, Griesemer, Pam, Schoen, and Steinberg voted No) to amend Town Council Rule of Procedure 6.3.e. by changing the numeral “3” to the numeral “2”.

The motion failed.

The Council took a break from 8:24pm to 8:31pm; when the meeting resumed President Griesemer confirmed Councilors could hear and be heard.

9. Appointments

- a. Town Manager Appointments-None**
- b. Town Council Appointments- None**

10. Committee and Liaison Reports- None

- a. Community Resources Committee**

Hanneke stated the committee will have a presentation from the Planning Department on Zoning Bylaw revisions.

- b. Elementary School Building Committee**

Schoen stated the Town Manager’s report includes relevant updates.

- c. Finance Committee**

Steinberg stated the committee looked at the Community Preservation Act proposals from a financial perspective and concluded they are financially sound proposals. Steinberg stated the committee will start more discussion of the library financials next.

d. Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee

Ryan stated there was nothing to add to the written report.

e. Joint Capital Planning Committee

Schoen stated the committee will meet every week and the schedules and packets have been posted.

f. Town Services and Outreach Committee

DuMont state the committee will be having a second look at storm water bylaws on March 11 and finalizing plans for public forums on Pomeroy Intersection. DuMont stated flyers will be available for Councilors to distribute.

g. Liaison Reports: Affordable Housing Trust, Board of Health, Board of License Commissioners, Community Preservation Act Committee, Council on Aging, Disabilities Access Advisory Committee, LSSE Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee

11. Approval of Minutes

a. February 22, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Hanneke, to adopt the following Town Council meeting minutes, as presented:

- February 22, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

Schoen requested minor edits including noting the first hour of the meeting was on a presentation by the library and to more clearly differentiate between Robert Pam and Dorothy Pam.

VOTED 12-0-1 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor Brewer Abstained) to adopt the following Town Council meeting minutes, as amended:

- February 22, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

12. Town Manager Report

Bockelman highlighted updates from the Town Manager’s report including:

- Ongoing meetings with University, State epidemiology, the Department of Public Health and State representative and State Senator regarding COVID cases, testing and vaccinations and prevention.
- Ongoing Town outreach with Cup of Joe and Community Chat programs
- Recent grant awards for improving walkways at the Bangs Center, a grant to work with a business consultant to help facilitate a come back after COIVD and a grant to improve cyber security

Bockelman and the Council discussed Councilor’s questions including:

- Civil War plaques will be hung at the Bangs Center and may be too heavy to be placed in a visible location in Town Hall
- More information to come on plans for one building committee for Department of Public Works and Fire project

- Uncertainty on federal funding related to the CARES act and continually changes rule son how funds can be spent
- How Engage Amherst website can be best used for outreach, the validity of data collected on the site as representative of the public opinion,
- North Amherst Library 2-3 month permitting timeline and plans to go back to the donor once construction documents are complete and estimate the project could be complete in about one year
- A request for updates on the\$80,000 that was set aside to address systemic racism
- More information to come about a timeline for the Homelessness Advisory Committee and the intention consider service needs more comprehensively than just finding a space for congregate housing

13. Town Council Comments

a. President Report

b. Future Agenda Items

The Council discussed upcoming agenda items and logistics. Councilors discussed how to incorporate following items in the Council schedule:

- The Regional School Budget will not be available until April 5th
- An email for a teacher about Council’s role in deciding the applicability of PFMLA
- A deadline for voting on the library based on grant funding timing, the number of questions asked from Council and the public, timing needed for adequate discussion
- The \$80,000 that was appropriated to address systemic racism in Amherst
- The Community Safety Working Group may be asking for another extension
- Possible increase in water and sewer rates may also be a discussion because word is getting out about how much they are going up

c. Councilor Comments

Bahl-Milne thanked the Council for commitment to Rethinking Racism for Social Justice Training, announced the training will be April 10th and 11th and half day follow up May 8th. The Council discussed the timing of the follow-up training, if Town Manager Bockelman and Clerk of the Council O’Keeffe will join, and confirmed open meeting law does not apply to a workshop where Town business is not being deliberated.

Steinberg stated the Finance Committee’s March 16th meeting agenda includes a report on the Town’s liability and other post-employment benefits.

14. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

15. Executive Session- *None*

16. Adjourn

President Griesemer declared the meeting of the Town Council adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey McConnell

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

00. 03-08-2021 Draft Motions for Town Council - revised
00. 03-08-2021 FINAL Town Council Agenda
6.a. 2021 TIBET DAY PROCLAMATION - as voted at GOL - clean
6.b. A Resolution Calling for Swift, Just Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth -final-1 as voted at GOL 2021-03-03 - clean
8.a. North Common Outreach - Public Comments
8.a. North Common PD TP 20-16 Plan 2
8.c.1. Farmers Market 3.5.2021 Final
8.d. Public Way Policy TSO Proposed Amended 2-11-21 - CLEAN - as amended at GOL 2-17-21
8.d. Public Way Policy TSO Proposed Amended February 11, 2021 - REDLINED - as amended at GOL
8.e. Proposed Revisions to ROP - 2021-03-08
11.a. 02-22-21 DRAFT Town Council Minutes
12. Town Manager Report 03-08-2021
2021-02-08 TSO Report to Town Council
2021-02-22 GOL Report to Town Council
2021-02-22 TSO Report to Town Council
2021-03-03 CRC Report to Town Council
2021-03-03 CRC Report to Town Council
2021-03-08 GOL Report to Town Council
2021-03-08 Finance Committee Report to Town Council
2021-03-08 TSO Report to Town Council
CO FY21 - 12 Free Cash to Stabilization Fund
CO FY21 - 13 Rescind Authorized Unissued Debt
CO FY22 - 07 CPA - Project Allocations
ECN Council Training April 2021
Grace Church Letter re North Common
N Common Small Business Comments on Parking v No Parking
North Common Outreach Business Response