



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 22, 2021
6:45 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Minutes**

Complete video is available online: <https://youtu.be/404WyxFXHDU>

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, Procurement Officer Anthony Delaney, Planning Director Christine Brestrup, Minute Taker Lindsey McConnell, Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek, Building Commissioner Rob Morra, Superintendent of Public Works Guilford Mooring, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 6:45 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:

- 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 23, 3:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee: March 30, 2:00 p.m.
- Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee: March 31, 10:30 a.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 25, 7:00 p.m., April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Flag-raising Ceremony for Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month:

April 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. in front of 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

Griesemer stated there will be opportunity for public comment on North Common later in meeting.

Michele Miller, Amherst resident, spoke on behalf of Reparations for Amherst commented on packet item 7C. Memo on Funds for Racial Inequity - Town Manager Memo - 03-18-2021. Miller commended Community Safety Working Group (CSWG), congratulated the consultant who the bid, and expressed happiness about Bockelman's thoughtful consideration regarding the remainder of the funds previously set aside. Miller stated Reparations for Amherst wholeheartedly supports the work of proposal 1 and 3, do not wish to compete with them, and thinks there should be line items in the regular ongoing budget for these efforts. Miller stated addressing equity and collecting data regularly is required to become anti-racist. Miller stated the group's request is a one time ask for funds that will be used to compensate black folks for participating in research and education. Miller stated Evanston will be first city to offer reparations and Amherst could be the second.

Alex Kent, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and spoke in favor of zoning that prevents buildings like 1 East Pleasant street that has not set-back, sky high rent, zero affordable units. Kent spoke in support of development of the business district and neighborhoods if it includes owner occupied rentals.

Ira Bryck, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and the need for a pause to ensure buildings align with what the community wants. Bryck spoke against five story buildings and overcrowding.

Ruth Hazzard, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the Council attending an antiracism training and urged the Council to fully engage in the work. Hazzard spoke about personal experience with trainings, the need to be learn and to see privilege and to lift up highest selves in order to take responsibility to change what is wrong.

Mary Sayer, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits. Sayer stated the need for clear figures and data on the housing crisis to inform the building process and spoke about Amherst being overbuilt in 70's.

Kitty Axelson-Berry, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and about the need to define a vision for Amherst, especially in light of COVID and a lack of change in projections of student numbers. Axelson-Berry spoke about a desire for a healthy, robust down town with diverse, small local businesses and the loss in ability to purchase basic needs like a head of lettuce and a hammer downtown.

Suzannah Fabing, Amherst Resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and the need to resolve zoning issues like parking, inclusionary zoning, defining mixed-use, before new building occurs. Fabing spoke about giving time for the Planning Department's research and future work with a consultant and community engagement to occur before more permits are approved.

Susan Cummings, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and asked it's geographic reach be extended to Route 9 where new building for college student being built and time be extended to 9 months to include time after new Council election. Cummings spoke about the need to consider the impact on traffic, crowding and the character of this area. Cummings spoke in support of

work with consultant and asked the Council to consider working with UMass to create joint public private housing on campus.

Pam Rooney, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits so the community can weigh-in and discuss what is coming down the pike. Rooney stated the Town should plan first then adjust zoning and bylaws second.

Jayne Pearl, Amherst resident, asked for clarification on how the Town defines affordable housing in dollars and what the Town considers affordable rent for families of different sizes. Pearl explained a formula she used to calculate 50-60% of Area Median Income (AMI) for a family of 4 to be less than \$900 rent family of 4.

Janet Keller, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits considering the amount of time it will take the consultant to create design guidelines. Keller spoke about the need to considering how more housing can help support a year round economy even during school breaks. Keller stated new guidelines could create an environment where local owners can cater to year round residents and visitors. Keller stated the Master Plan calls for design guidelines and Keller spoke in favor of planning first for an outstanding town center with outstanding design guideline.

Sandy Muspratt, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and that it be extended for 9 months. Muspratt stated there have been quite a number of permits approved to build under current zoning laws while they are being changed. Muspratt stated new developments have largely been for housing only rich students can afford and does not create diversity or affordable units. Muspratt stated those who have why formulated the idea of a housing crisis should include evidence.

Jeff Cobbs, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits until zoning bylaws are revised and aim to have the right type of development that residents want in the area where they live. Cobbs spoke in favor of more owner-occupied for supplemental dwelling units and more dialogue with UMass about student housing.

Claudia Pazmany, Executive Director of Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce, spoke against the temporary moratorium on building permits and warned it would be detrimental to local economic growth. Pazmany stated the Chamber has issued a complete statement about it including that it sends the wrong message during efforts to redevelop after the pandemic and that it will impact builders and trades people. Pazmany stated a moratorium is antithetical to Town's own studies and stated goals. Pazmany implored the Council to reject the moratorium and request they send the message Amherst welcomes housing and economic development.

Bob Tancredi, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium on building permits until after next Council election to allow the Town time to digest what they've seen so far before they continue to put in permanent solutions to temporary problems. Tancredi spoke in favor of revitalizing downtown and again the tax burden falling on homeowners. Tancredi also stated he received a flyer regarding footnote "m" and stated concern if doing so gives a license to knockdown and demolish neighborhoods.

Griesemer stated the Council will not be voting on the temporary moratorium bylaw, it will be referred to committee and will go through hearing processes which will provide more opportunity for comment.

Carol Pope, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and that it be extended for 9 months. Pope spoke about the need for community involvement and stated that what as been built so far does not being vibrancy or green space in to downtown.

Anne Scarff, Amherst resident, described living condos converted from Amherst funeral home. Scarff stated the hope for more of this kind of wonderful development instead of 4 and 5 story buildings with no affordable units and no parking. Scarff asked why the Town is solving UMass's problem.

Jennifer Taub, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits so the Town can plan first and then build. Taub asked how the moratorium would be sending the wrong

messages to businesses since the new buildings have misplaced businesses. Taub spoke about the desire to see more businesses in downtown and the willingness of downtown residents to work with the Chamber and the BID to encourage business. Taub stated 14 businesses have disappeared in the last 10 years.

Kristie Stauch-White, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and that it be extended for 9 months. Stauch-White stated many businesses their family used to go to have disappeared and there are now more businesses that favor students and are not as good for families.

Adrienne Terrizzi, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and the need to amend zoning bylaws.

Jesse Mager, Amherst Resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and spoke about the goal of changing and developing Town as other small college towns have.

Gabrielle Gould, Executive Director of the Amherst Business Improvement District (BID). Gould stated businesses have operated at less than 20% for the last 12 months, the incredible community has raised money to help keep them going but without student, faculty and parents and state funding they can't keep going. Gould spoke about the need for collective density in downtown, the challenges of running a small business and stated the BID is working on major projects to create smaller shops. Gould stated the carriage shops closed because the buildings were falling apart, cooling and heating. Gould stated the new current buildings are not offensive to everybody, they have racially diverse residents, they bring over \$1million in taxes and have had very few police calls and stated it is normal to pay more to live downtown. Gould spoke of the benefits of development bringing LEED Platinum certified buildings to replace the current sea of asphalt and cement the BID pays to have cleaned. Gould also spoke as a resident stating most people can not join Council meetings at this time because they are busy with their families.

Mary Shaughan, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the temporary moratorium for building permits and against enormous buildings.

Francis Goyes, Amherst resident, spoke against the temporary moratorium for building permits. Goyes stated Amherst has a huge need for more housing as cited in the Housing Production Plan. Goyes expressed understanding about the need for design guidelines and stated ample planning been done. Goyes spoke against letting people who have had privilege of calling this place home disallow others from joining and stated it is only equitable to let others join us. Goyes stated increasing supply will prevent displacement which mostly impacts low income households and households of color. Goyes asked what the impact the moratorium could have on state funding for being a Housing Choice community.

Janet Keller, Amherst resident, spoke about feeling sad when people say that those of us who are talking are saying no to all development.

Griesemer stated there will be more public hearing options in the future.

5. Consent Agenda

Griesemer stated 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, a councilor should 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.

DuMont asked about the Financial Orders and for clarification on if the Council was voting on the Jones Library CPAC request that was in the meeting packet.

Griesemer state the Financial Orders do not include in the Jones Library.

Steinberg requested the removal 8.e. FY22-27 CPA project allocations from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Hanneke, 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 8.4 for the following agenda items:
 - 8.e. Adoption of Financial Orders FY21-12, FY21-13, and FY22-07
 - 8.f. Inter-governmental Agreements
 - 8.g. Authorization for Superintendent of Schools - Foster Care Transportation
- 6.a. Adoption of 2021 Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation
- 8.e. Adoption of the following Financial Orders:
 - FY21-12 Free Cash to Stabilization Fund
 - FY21-13 Rescind Authorized Unissued Debt
- 8.f. Authorization for Town Manager to enter in the following Inter-governmental Agreements:
 - Sealer of Weights and Measures with the City of Northampton for FY21
 - Municipal Hearing Officer with the City of Northampton for FY21
 - Veterans' Services with the City of Northampton and the Towns of Amherst, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hadley, Middlefield, Pelham, Williamsburg, and
 - Provision of Ambulance Services to the Town of Leverett for FY21 and FY22
 - Provision of Ambulance Services to the Town of Pelham for FY21 and FY22
 - Provision of Ambulance Services to the Town of Shutesbury for FY21 and FY22
 - Agreement for dog kennel services with City of Northampton for FY21
 - Paramedic Intercept Services with the City of Northampton for FY21
 - Paramedic Intercept Services with the Town of Hadley for FY21
 - Paramedic Intercept Services with the Turners Falls Fire Department for FY21
- 8.g. Authorization for Superintendent of Schools - Foster Care Transportation
- 11.a. Approval of Minutes:
 - March 8, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

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 8.4 for the following agenda items:
 - 8.e. Adoption of Financial Orders FY21-12, FY21-13, and FY22-07
 - 8.f. Inter-governmental Agreements
 - 8.g. Authorization for Superintendent of Schools - Foster Care Transportation
- 6.a. Adoption of 2021 Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation
- 8.e. Adoption of the following Financial Orders:
 - FY21-12 Free Cash to Stabilization Fund
 - FY21-13 Rescind Authorized Unissued Debt
 - FY22-07 Community Preservation Act Project Allocations
- 8.f. Authorization for Town Manager to enter in the following Inter-governmental Agreements:
 - Sealer of Weights and Measures with the City of Northampton for FY21

- Municipal Hearing Officer with the City of Northampton for FY21
- Veterans' Services with the City of Northampton and the Towns of Amherst, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hadley, Middlefield, Pelham, Williamsburg, and
- Provision of Ambulance Services to the Town of Leverett for FY21 and FY22
- Provision of Ambulance Services to the Town of Pelham for FY21 and FY22
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- Agreement for dog kennel services with City of Northampton for FY21
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- Paramedic Intercept Services with the Turners Falls Fire Department for FY21
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6. Resolutions and Proclamations

a. 2021 Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation

VOTED via consent agenda to adopt the 2021 Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Proclamation and flag raising, as presented.

Agenda item 8. Action Items

a. North Common

Guildford Mooring presented packet items 8.a. North Common DPW Revised PD TP 20-16 Plan 2 - 02-02-21 and 8.a. North Common DPW Revised PLAN 3B - 01-26-21 (1). Mooring stated there are currently 43 parking spaces in this area, 5 spaces will be lost to make all spaces the proper size, plan 2B will have 38 and 3b will have 27 spaces.

Schoen asked if the \$1.4 million covers either of these plans and if the parking that remains will be flat, Mooring stated the less expensive materials may need to be used but the Town believes they can achieve either plan with \$1.4 million and the future parking will be less sloped but not totally flat.

Gabrielle Gould, Executive Director of Amherst BID, shared results of a survey to downtown businesses regarding the plans stating 60% requested some form parking remain, 30% stated all of the parking can go and 10% liked neither plan. Gould stated even out of 60%, many expressed desire for it to be more than parking and to more beautiful. Gould stated the BID's intention to put out an RFP to build a community-parking garage in CVS parking lot in future. The BID stated either options is better than what exists now and cited a landscaping company indicted many branches on the marry maple are ready to come down and are dangerous.

Reverend Synan of Grace Episcopal church cited packet item 8.a. Grace Church Letter re North Common stating the church's position. Synan spoke about the Churches preference for plan 2B and the need for parking not just on Sunday morning but also evenings when there are town and church events.

Chris Freitag, Senior Warden of Grace Episcopal Church, spoke about the desire for 2-way parking from the parking lot toward Main street to reduce the bottleneck in front of the church

Mooring stated to have two way traffic with either plan parking will need to be removed from one side of the road or the parking and sidewalk will need to be extended in to the common 6ft.

DuMont clarified spending will be capped at the \$1.4 million.

Mooring confirmed.

Schoen spoke about resident feedback citing the need for parking near Town Hall and a letter from Amherst Cinema citing the importance of that overflow lot. Schoen stated unless there is a real alternative, the Town needs the parking.

Swartz agreed with Schoen and added nearby businesses rely on quick in and out shopping. Swartz spoke about challenge for those with physical limitations to walk from the CVS parking and stated show potential shoppers will go to Hadley instead. Swartz spoke about need for people to be able to visit Town Hall and the need to listen to the church's needs. Swartz stated the Council should explore whether want to take part of the common or not for two-way traffic.

Pam spoke in favor of seeing Town Hall with a flat green area that is open to public life and ceremonies without a stream of cars around it. Pam spoke about additional alternative solutions such as using smaller private spaces for public parking as suggested by parking consultant to, an app to help find parking, and a deal with Amherst College.

Ryan spoke in favor of plan 3B, less asphalt more welcoming green civic space for powerful moments for the community to gather. Ryan stated the plans only differ by 11 spaces.

Steinberg agreed with Ryan and Pam, referenced the mixed feelings in the BID's survey and spoke in favor of the creative part of plan 3B to allow for angle spaces on Main St.

Brewer spoke against plan 3B and about the difficulty in finding parking. Brewer stated is no parking app yet. Brewer spoke about past events around the flagpole that have not needed space but have needed nearby parking for elderly and handicapped. Brewer stated there is a clear majority in the business survey data that depend on drop-in business. Brewer requested more conversation back-in angle parking.

MOTION: Councilor Hanneke moved, second by Councilor Ross, to approve "Plan 3B" as shown with no modifications.

Hanneke stated Plan 3B eliminates 11 spots, and spoke about the importance of the common. Hanneke stated if the parking was not already there, the Council would not choose to add parking to the Common.. Hanneke cited the Down Town Parking Study Appendix A does not show any time on Thursday or Saturday that public parking exceeding 90% and does show there is a need for more parking signage

Schreiber seconded Hanneke's statement.

Ross also seconded Hanneke. Ross spoke about the need for long range thinking about what the down town will look like, how the plans aligns with climate action goals and the short sightedness of paving green space. Ross also expressed frustration about spending money on studies and then not seeing the data.

Bahl-Milne agreed with the need for a long term vision considering a future possible parking garage. Bahl-Milne cited the popular block party that blocked parking spots and spoke about the need for space for people to congregate. Bahl-Milne asked how many handicapped spaces are there and if the one-way area can be changed to two way in the future.

Mooring stated there are 2 handicap spaces now and there are 2 in each plan. Mooring stated two way traffic can be added in future.

DuMont spoke in agreement with Brewer's comments and against doing so much to try and help downtown businesses after COIVD yet not listening to their parking needs now. DuMont spoke about amazing existing park system in down town. DuMont spoke about the need to consider climate impacts and stated the preference to upgrade the green space and leave the existing parking lot.

Swartz spoke about the importance of the parking location in evening hours and stated the Council can not wish away cars even in the future when they are electric. Swartz stated there are several other nearby parks with seating areas.

Schoen asked about utilizing the Transportation fund money if there is not a parking lot. Schoen spoke about the major draws of Amherst cinema and the church and about the inaccurate assumptions in the parking study based on other lots that no longer exist.

Schreiber asked why the Town would allow parking on the front lawn of Town and spoke about the opportunity to rectify a poor past decision that impacts everyone, even those who don't drive cars. Schreiber agreed parking near shops is needed, on-street parking is more efficient, and people's habitats can change.

VOTED 8-5 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz voted No) to approve "Plan 3B" as shown with no modifications.

The Town Council took a 5-minute recess at 8:42 p.m.

b. Proposed Temporary Building Moratorium Bylaw

Councilors Schoen, DuMont and Pam presented on the Temporary Building Moratorium including that: the intentions of the moratorium are not to stop development but to first ensure design guidelines are place before more buildings are added and to allow time for community engagement and work on important Zoning Bylaw changes and Climate Change plans. Schoen stated hitting the pause button with a 6 month moratorium on new permits for buildings with 3 or more units in down town (B-G, limited business (BL) and adjacent General Residence (R-G) districts does not apply to new homes, duplexes or additional dwelling units.

Griesemer stated there are two parts to this agenda: a bylaw change that was proposed by three Councilors and resident petitions. Griesemer stated the Town Attorney advised this is a non-discretionary action and will be automatically referred to Community Resources Committee (CRC) and Governance, Organization and Legislature committee (GOL).

Hanneke spoke about state laws requirements regarding timing of public hearings based on timing of Council and committee action.

DuMont asked if Councilor and resident action can be combined

Brewer called a Point of Order asking why the Council is voting if the resident petition is being automatically referred.

Griesemer stated the Councilors originally submitted this bylaw change with the resident petitions. Griesemer stated it doesn't matter whether Council votes on it or not, the separate resident petition has to be referred. Griesemer this is the opportunity for Councilors so speak and vote on the petition from the Councilors.

Brewer noted the dates on the Councilor petition differ from the dates on the resident petition.

Griesemer stated these are the dates the 3 Councilors submitted.

Brestrup asked how the dates were devised and noted how soon they are.

DuMont stated the dates were chosen based on the assumption holding a public hearing does not require that much preparation.

Hanneke asked if the Council is in debate for a motion that has not been made yet.

MOTION: Councilor DuMont moved, second by Councilor Schoen, Per MGL Chapter 40A Sec. 5 and Charter Sec. 9.8(g), to submit the proposed Temporary Building Moratorium Zoning Bylaw sponsored by Councilors DuMont, Pam, and Schoen to the Planning Board and to the Community Resources Committee for a joint hearing held no later than April 21, 2021, and for a written recommendation, “along with an explanation as to whether the proposed bylaw is consistent with the Master Plan,” from the Planning Board to the Town Council no later than 21 days after the joint hearing, and further to direct the Community Resources Committee to comment on, vote a recommendation, and to submit all materials to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee for review of clarity, consistency, and actionability in time for the Town Council to act within 60 days of the hearing.

Brewer spoke in opposition to the motion, noting the legal requirements regarding the petition and the shorter deadlines in the motion.

DuMont and Schoen withdrew the motion.

Griesemer noted receipt of the resident petition and stated the resident petition is automatically referred to the Planning Board, Community Resources Committee of the Town Council, and Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee of the Town Council.

Councilors discussed deadlines outlined in Massachusetts General Law regarding the resident petition, and that the Town will adhere to those deadlines.

Building Commissioner Rob Morra and Planning Director Christine Brestrup spoke about the following:

- Zoning districts affected: R-G, B-L & B-G
- Projects that may be subject to the moratorium
- Projects not subject to the moratorium
- Petition timeline/deadlines: referral, public hearing, published notice, Council action

Schreiber asked when the 180 day moratorium would begin, if adopted.

Morra responded that it would begin the day the Council votes to adopt the bylaw, but that the moratorium would affect the applications in process as soon as notice of the public hearing is published.

Pam asked if projects could be approved before the publication date.

Brestrup responded that it is unlikely that an application could be approved that quickly.

Bahl-Milne asked if the petitioners could withdraw the petition.

Brestrup responded that each signatory would need to agree to withdraw.

Bockelman added that once the petition is submitted, for all practical purposes the Town Council must consider it.

Brewer thanked staff for pulling the presentation and information together on short notice, stated the Council has not done anything with Zoning, that the building that people dislike downtown was approved prior to the Town Council's existence, spoke about the 2-year limit on zoning proposals that are rejected, and asked how specific a new proposal would need be to not be considered the same and not able to be resubmitted within that 2-year timeframe.

Morra responded that if the bylaw were to fail, it could be resubmitted with one less zoning district and that would be viewed as different enough from the original petition to proceed.

Schreiber spoke about zoning in general, and about the perception of buildings casting shadows downtown when that is false.

Agenda Item 7. Presentations and Discussion

a. Major Capital Projects

(1) Massachusetts School Building Authority Update

(2) Response to Jones Library additional questions

(3) Options for Fire and Department of Public Works

DuMont stated submitted questions were combined and not adequately answered in the narrative.

Griesemer responded to resend the questions.

Pam asked if Fire and Department of Public Works (DPW) will be on the same site.

Bockelman responded no, the projects are moving in tandem, a location is need for DPW but the Town can move forward with Fire because it has a location.

a. Update on Review of Jones Library Options

b. Update on Funds Appropriated to Address Systemic Racism

Steinberg asked if funding needs have been considered.

Bockelman responded that the Town is looking at what we will need next year, wanting to support the work of the core equity team, research that needs to be done will grow out of the work being done by the Community Safety Working Group; reparations are more uncertain.

Brewer spoke about her request to put this topic on the Council agenda, and the desire to implement the resolution passed by the Council.

Bockelman spoke about the City of Evanston, Illinois that recently implemented a groundbreaking local reparations program, and stated the Council has not directed the Town Manager to move in that specific direction yet.

Bahl-Milne spoke about the need for the Council to agree on what action the resolution points to.

Hanneke stated the funds included in the budget are not up to the Council to spend; and the need to clarify guidance from the Council to the Town Manager.

Brewer stated the Council is the policy making branch and the executive is looking for policy direction.

De Angelis spoke about not wanting to compete with other projects, comfort with the Town Manager making decisions on how the money is spent, and the desire for the Council to have a conversation about reparations with creative solutions.

Griesemer spoke about legality of supporting reparations, and competition with other groups for funding.

Agenda Item 8.e. Action Items: Financial Orders

(1) FY21-12 Free Cash to Stabilization Fund

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt Council Order FY21-12: An Order Appropriating from Free Cash to the Stabilization fund, as recommended by the Finance Committee report dated March 8, 2021.

(2) FY21-13 Rescind Authorized Unissued Debt

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt Council Order FY21-13: An Order Rescinding Authorized but Unissued Bonds, as recommended by the Finance Committee report dated March 8, 2021.

(3) FY22-07 Community Preservation Act Project Allocation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

Steinberg reports that Amherst Community Connections asked for a third round of funding for a program that helps with housing and home ownership. Steinberg spoke about questions during the Finance Committee review regarding evaluation of the program, and other projects that have more units to serve more people.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor De Angelis, in accordance with Charter Sec. 5.6, having been published on the Town Bulletin Board for a minimum of 10 days on March 10, 2021, a Public Forum held on March 22, 2021, and having been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee report of March 8, 2021, to adopt Council Order FY22-07: An Order Appropriating the FY2022 Community Preservation Act Budget, as presented.

Hanneke supported Steinberg's request for more information about outcomes of the project.

Procurement Officer Anthony Delaney spoke about the project, this is the third year it has come back to the CPA for funding, about other ways to support affordable housing, testimonials and support of the Housing Trust, and invoicing for housing subsidies handled by Town staff.

Community Preservation Act Committee Chair Sarah Marshall spoke about reporting that can be compiled and shared, and that this is the maximum amount approvable for the number of people it serves for one year.

VOTED unanimously, 13-0 by roll call, in accordance with Charter Sec. 5.6, having been published on the Town Bulletin Board for a minimum of 10 days on March 10, 2021, a Public Forum held on March 22, 2021, and having been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee report of March 8, 2021, to adopt Council Order FY22-07: An Order Appropriating the FY2022 Community Preservation Act Budget, as presented.

Agenda Item 8.c. Action Items: Town Council Anti-Racism Training

Bahl-Milne spoke about concerns from Councilors regarding the training.

De Angelis spoke about the pervasiveness of white supremacy, and the deliberation prior to the decision to bring this specific training opportunity to the Council.

Hanneke thanked De Angelis and Bahl-Milne for conversations about the training and helping to achieve clarity about the length of the training and its value to the Council.

Ryan commented about the lack of choices presented.

Swartz spoke about wanting the job of Councilor to be doable for a working person and/or a parent, the value of attending the training, how to pass this on to the next Council, and the needs for guidelines.

Ross spoke about setting expectations for the time required to be a Councilor, and shared Ryan’s concern about lack of options.

DuMont thanked Bahl-Milne and De Angelis for their work, and stated the best timing for this training would be winter immediately after a new Council takes office.

Schreiber spoke about the timing of the training coming at the end of the Council’s term, and thanked Bahl-Milne and De Angelis for their work.

Bahl-Milne spoke about doing the training together as a Council to allow everyone to understand the same language and frameworks.

Brewer spoke about passing information and responsibility to future Councils.

Agenda item 8.d. Action Items: Districting Advisory Board – MGL Chapter 54, Section 1 and Charter Sec. 7.4

Griesemer stated there is a memo and a draft charge in the Council meeting materials packet.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Brewer, to refer the memo and the draft Districting Advisory Board charge to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee to review and recommended a charge, timeline, and appointment process to the Town Council by April 12, 2021.

Brewer commented that the process should be very straightforward, and spoke in opposition to Councilors inclusion on the committee.

Hanneke spoke in opposition to the statement reading “cluster together,” and the idea that students would be “spread across as many districts as possible.”

VOTED unanimously, 13-0 by roll call, to refer the memo and the draft Districting Advisory Board charge to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee to review and recommended a charge, timeline, and appointment process to the Town Council by April 12, 2021.

f. FY21 and FY22 Inter-governmental Agreements – Consent Agenda

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: In accordance with MGL Ch.40 Sec. 4A, which allows for joint operation of public activities among governmental units, and requires that such inter-governmental agreements be approved by the Town Council and negotiated and signed by the Town Manager, the Town

Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to enter into the following Inter-governmental agreements for the fiscal years stated:

1. Sealer of Weights and Measures with the City of Northampton for FY21
2. Municipal Hearing Officer with the City of Northampton for FY21
3. Veterans' Services with the City of Northampton and the Towns of Amherst, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hadley, Middlefield, Pelham, Williamsburg, and
4. Provision of Ambulance Services to the Town of Leverett for FY21 and FY22
5. Provision of Ambulance Services to the Town of Pelham for FY21 and FY22
6. Provision of Ambulance Services to the Town of Shutesbury for FY21 and FY22
7. Agreement for dog kennel services with City of Northampton for FY21
8. Paramedic Intercept Services with the City of Northampton for FY21
9. Paramedic Intercept Services with the Town of Hadley for FY21
10. Paramedic Intercept Services with the Turners Falls Fire Department for FY21

g. Authorization for Superintendent - Foster Care Transportation – Consent Agenda

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), under MGL Ch. 44 Sec. 70 for the purposes of Title IV-E reimbursement for foster care transportation, as outlined in the Town Manager memorandum to the Town Council dated March 10, 2021.

8. Appointments

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

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. **Community Resources Committee**
- b. **Finance Committee**
- c. **Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee**
- d. **Joint Capital Planning Committee**
- e. **Town Services and Outreach Committee**
- f. **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**

10. Approval of Minutes

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the following Town Council meeting minutes, as presented:

- March 8, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

11. Town Manager Report

Bockelman reported that the written report is comprehensive, and added that St. Patrick's Day was relatively quiet throughout Town.

12. Town Council Comments

a. President Report

b. Future Agenda Items

Hanneke asked if there will be a third Council meeting in June.

Griesemer responded that it is a tentative meeting date and a meeting will be held only if needed.

c. Councilor Comments

DuMont requested that people making public comment be allowed to use their cameras and be seen, that comments sent regarding the zoning bylaw petition be made available online, expressed surprise that the Town Hall building is closed to the public and asked if other Town Hall buildings are still closed.

Bockelman responded that the Town Hall has been closed and that departments are continuing to serve residents and visitors by appointment outside or online; as vaccinations become more available the Town will consider reopening Town buildings.

Schoen commented about getting feedback from constituents on materials in the Council packet, specifically related to the North Common, and spoke about making materials more findable.

Pam complimented the Town Clerk's office on their service with the petition papers.

Schreiber spoke about the emails the Council has received regarding the building moratorium bylaw and the apparent confusion and need to clarify with residents the affect of the proposed bylaw.

Bahl-Milne added that people were writing regarding removing footnote M and that the impression was that there is impending Council action and that people seem to be unclear on what is going on.

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

14. Executive Session

15. Adjourn

President Griesemer declared the meeting of the Town Council adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey McConnell

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

00. 03-22-2021 Draft Motions for Town Council as of 03-19-21 - revised

00. 03-22-2021 FINAL Special Town Council Agenda - CPA Forum

00. 03-22-2021 FINAL Town Council Agenda

6.a. Child Abuse Proclamation 3.9.2021 - as voted at GOL

7.a.3. Progress Report on Fire and DPW Buildings 03-18-2021

- 7.b. Memo re Update on Review of Jones Library Options 2-19-2021
- 7.b. QA For FinCom Draft 3-14-21 with page numbers - AMENDED OPTION 2 AS OF 3-18-2021
- 7.c. Memo on Funds for Racial Inequity - Town Manager Memo - 03-18-2021
- 8.a. Copy of North Common Outreach Business Response_
- 8.a. Grace Church Letter re North Common
- 8.a. Memo to Town Council - North Common - 03-17-2021
- 8.a. N Common Small Business Comments on Parking v No Parking
- 8.a. North Common DPW Revised PD TP 20-16 Plan 2 - 02-02-21
- 8.a. North Common DPW Revised PLAN 3B - 01-26-21 (1)
- 8.a. North Common Outreach Business Response
- 8.b. (2) C. Schoen - Petitions 3.22.21
- 8.b. (3) D. Pam - Zoning Bylaw Petitions 3.22.21
- 8.b. (4) D. Pam - Zoning Bylaw Petitions 3.22.21
- 8.b. Building Moratorium Memo 3.15.2021 v. 3
- 8.b. D. Pam-Petitions 3.22.21
- 8.b. DuMont - Petitions 3.22.21
- 8.b. Memo regarding Moratorium Petition from Residents
- 8.b. PETITION Zoning Article 16 - Temporary Moratorium for 180 days - CERTIFIED
- 8.b. Proposed Moratorium - Staff Presentation 03-22-2021_FINAL2
- 8.b. Receipt (2) C. Schoen Petitions 3.22.21
- 8.b. Receipt (DuMont)-Zoning Bylaw Change Petition 3.22.21
- 8.b. Temporary Building Moratorium Bylaw 3.15.2021
- 8.b. Zoning Article 16 Petition - Additional Signatures 3.19.21
- 8.b. Zoning Moratorium Sponsor Presentation
- 8.c. ECN Council Training April 2021 revised with dates
- 8.d. Memo and Draft Charge re Districting Advisory Board as of 2-18-2021
- 8.e. 2021-03-08 Finance Committee Report to Town Council
- 8.e.1. CO FY21 - 12 Free Cash to Stabilization Fund
- 8.e.2. CO FY21 - 13 Rescind Authorized Unissued Debt
- 8.e.3. CO FY22 - 07 CPA - Project Allocations
- 8.e.3. CPAC Annual Report FY22 - Final
- 8.e.3. CPAC Recommendations - Town Council Presentation
- 8.f. Inter-governmental Agreements - Town Manager Memo - 03-18-2021
- 8.g. Foster Care Transportation 2021
- 11.a. 03-08-21 DRAFT Town Council Minutes
- 12. Town Manager Report 03-22-2021
- 13.a.1. President Report - March 2021
- 13.a.2. Future Agendas as of 3-20-2021
- 2021-02-08 TSO Report to Town Council
- 2021-03-17 CRC Report to Town Council
- 2021-03-17 Participatory Budgeting Commission Update to Town Council
- 2021-03-22 GOL Report to Town Council
- 2021-03-22 TSO Report to Town Council