



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Minutes**

Complete video is available online: <https://youtu.be/PHu4qljAuKs>

1. Call to Order

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

Councilors Absent: DuMont

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Minute-taker Lindsey McConnell, Matthew Andrews, Michele Miller, Dr. Barbara Love, and Dr. Amilcar Shabazz

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

Griesemer announced the following upcoming events:

Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

- May 24, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
 - Public Hearing: permanent parking changes related to North Common
 - Regular Town Council Meeting
- June 7, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
 - Public Forum on the Capital Improvement Program
 - Regular Town Council Meeting

Upcoming Council Committee Meetings:

- Community Resources Committee: May 25, 2:00 p.m.
- Joint Public Hearings of the Community Resources Committee and Planning Board, May 19:
 - Proposed Zoning Amendment to Article 15: Inclusionary Zoning: 7:00 p.m.
 - Proposed Zoning Article 16: Temporary Moratorium for 180 Days on Building Permits for Construction of Residential Buildings with Three or More Dwelling Units: 8:00 p.m.

- Finance Committee: May 18, 1:00 p.m.
See additional meetings: [FY22 Budget Review Meeting Schedule](#)
Please note: Finance Committee meetings will begin at 1:00 p.m. in May
- Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee: May 19, 10:30 a.m.
- Town Services and Outreach Committee: May 27, 7:30 p.m.

Other Events:

- Race Amity Day – Virtual Event Sunday, June 13, 4:00 p.m.
- Juneteenth Celebrations – Saturday, June 19 info will be posted at www.AmherstMA.gov
- Upcoming District Meetings
 - District 4 - May 18, 7:00 p.m.
 - District 5 – June 3, 6:00 p.m.

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

a. Public Hearing of the Finance Committee on the FY22 Town Budget – Charter Sec. 5.5(a)

Finance Committee Chair Steinberg called the Finance Committee to order at 6:35 p.m. and confirmed non-voting Finance committee members can hear and be heard. Steinberg reviewed the applicable section of the Town Charter that apply to budget process including that this budget does not include the regional schools budget because it is taken up off-schedule due to the nature of the arrangement with partner towns. Steinberg stated the Finance Committee will continue meeting with staff from Town departments and those meetings are posted on the website.

Town Manager Bockelman and Finance Director Sean Mangano gave a brief presentation on the budget:

- The budget and additional info is available on the Town webpage
- The budget is balanced, aligns with goals adopted by the Council, with a modest operating budget increase of 2.1% that allows for a few new initiatives
- Revenues – brief overview
- Expenditures – brief overview

Steinberg opened the public comment section of the meeting.

The following Amherst residents spoke during public comment about funding for the Amherst schools, the Community Safety Working Group’s recommendations, the CRESS Program, reducing funding for the Amherst Police Department, reparations initiatives, climate goals, racial and environmental justice, and rejection of the Town Manager’s proposed budget:

Timmy Sullivan

- Patricia Rector
- Hasini Jayawardena
- Mattea Kramer
- James Cordero
- Zoe Crabtree

- Lev Ben-Ezra
- Isabella Hann
- Lynette Arnold
- Barkha Bhandari
- Robin Suttle
- Katie Koerten
- Curry Kautz
- Adam Gibbs
- Ryan Karb
- Lydia Irons
- Kathleen Traphagen
- Allegra Clark
- Bailey Batty
- Margaret Sawyer
- Maya Hossain
- Katie Lazdowski
- Irv Rhodes
- Megan Lieff
- Anisha
- Maida Ives
- Lexi Monesson-Olson
- Ana Devlin Gauthier
- Artie McCullom
- Jennifer Page
- Mareatha Wallace
- Demetria Shabazz
- Lauren Mills
- Toni Cunningham
- Jonathan Sivel
- Kevin Noonan
- Zoe Abram
- Kaylee Brow
- Kathleen Anderson

Amrita, Seo-Ho, Abigail, Marisol, and Julian, young Amherst residents, spoke about the Amherst Regional School budget, and funding for the Community Safety Working Group recommendations.

With no other people wishing to make a public comment, Steinberg adjourned the Finance Committee public hearing at 8:49 p.m.

President Griesemer stated, given the late hour, that she would like to move several agenda items to the next regular Council meeting and asked for objections; there were no objections.

The Council took a 10-minute break at 8:51 p.m.

Agenda Item 5. Consent Agenda

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

- 6.a. Adoption of Resolution Opposing the Closure of the Gorse Children’s Center at Mount Holyoke College
- 6.b. Adoption of Race Amity Day Annual Proclamation
- Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for agenda item 8.a. State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Spraying
- 8.f. Adoption of Audit Request for Proposals (RFP) Committee Charge
- 11. Approval of Minutes:
 - February 16, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Finance Committee
 - May 7, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Finance Committee
 - May 3, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

Brewer requested removal of 6.a. Adoption of Resolution Opposing the Closure of the Gorse Children’s Center at Mount Holyoke College.

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 was absent) to move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- 6.b. Adoption of Race Amity Day Annual Proclamation
- Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for agenda item 8.a. State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Spraying
- 8.f. Adoption of Audit Request for Proposals (RFP) Committee Charge
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4. Resolutions and Proclamations – Consent Agenda

a. Resolution Opposing the Closure of the Gorse Children’s Center at Mount Holyoke College

Brewer spoke about the importance of the program, and stated that this is not within the purview of the Town Council.

Hanneke commented that it is not appropriate for the Town Council to weigh in on private business decisions.

Bahl-Milne thanked the people who stayed in the meeting to speak about this issue, and spoke in favor of the resolution.

Pam spoke in favor of the resolution and about the importance of childcare.

Steinberg stated this is an important discussion for the Council.

De Angelis spoke about Council actions that impact businesses, about the importance of the issue, in support of the resolution, and about the disparate impact on women and children.

Schoen spoke about the higher education institutions in Town, and in support of the resolution.

Ryan commented about the importance and relevance of the issue.

MOTION: Griesemer moved, second by Bahl-Milne, to adopt the Resolution Opposing the Closure of the Gorse Children’s Center at Mount Holyoke College, as presented.

VOTED 9-0-4 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilors Brewer, Hanneke, and Steinberg Abstained, Councilor DuMont was absent) to adopt the Resolution Opposing the Closure of the Gorse Children’s Center at Mount Holyoke College, as presented.

b. Race Amity Day Annual Proclamation

VOTED via consent agenda to adopt the Race Amity Day Annual Proclamation, as presented.

Agenda Item 4. General Public Comment

Cori Kurtz, Rabia, Robert Samet, Katia Vavova, Jessica Maier spoke in support of the Resolution opposing the closure of the Gorse Children’s Center at Mount Holyoke College.

Irv Rhodes, Amherst resident, spoke about reparations efforts, a census of Black residents, and formation of a reparations coalition.

Kathleen Anderson, Amherst resident and former elected official, former president of Amherst NAACP, current female co-chair of New England chapter of Black for Reparations in America and one of the members serving on reparations coalition, spoke about organization of Black community members, Amherst residents who benefitted from the slavery of Africans, and spoke in support of reparations efforts.

Nadine, Amherst resident, spoke in support of reparations efforts and the reparations coalition.

Zoe Crabtree, Amherst resident, spoke in support of reparations efforts.

6. Presentations and Discussion

a. Reparations for Amherst

Griesemer welcomed guests Dr. Barbara Love, Dr. Amilcar Shabazz, Michele Miller, and Matthew Andrews.

Barbara Love spoke about proposed actions the group is requesting the Council take, a resolution in support of H.R. 40/S. 40 and formation of an African Heritage Reparation Coalition.

Dr. Love requested the Council undertake reparative justice, and direct tax revenue into a reparations fund that would be directed toward racial justice.

Dr. Shabazz spoke about partnering with the Town towards reparations, and work on a Black census.

Michelle Miller read a statement from co-founder of the Reparations for Amherst group Kam Howard.

Matthew Andrews spoke about the trauma of anti-black racism, reparations, and funding for programs that combat structural racism.

MOTION: Hanneke moved, second by De Angelis, to refer the draft African Heritage Reparation Coalition (AHRC) charge to GOL with report to the Town Council by June 21, 2021.

Bahl-Milne, spoke in support of formation of the committee and spoke about the essential work of healing as a community.

Brewer spoke about discussion of a funding stream from marijuana tax revenue.

Councilors discussed the scope of the referral, and funding.

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 was absent) to refer the draft African Heritage Reparation Coalition (AHRC) charge to GOL with report to the Town Council by June 21, 2021.

MOTION: Brewer moved, second by De Angelis, to refer the draft African Heritage Reparation Coalition (AHRC) charge to the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Town Council on a revenue stream for a reparations fund in the FY22 budget.

Brewer spoke about use of recreational marijuana tax revenue as a potential funding stream.

Steinberg stated there is no guarantee that the Finance Committee will be successful in identifying a funding stream.

Councilors discussed the identification and use of a revenue stream, referral process, and addition of the work “possible” to the motion as a friendly amendment.

VOTED 10-1-2 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Schoen, Schreiber, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor Ryan voted No; Councilor Steinberg Abstained and Councilor DuMont was absent) to refer the draft African Heritage Reparation Coalition (AHRC) charge to the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Town Council on a possible revenue stream for a reparations fund in the FY22 budget.

Agenda item 14. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the President 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Bockelman spoke about the Governor’s announcement that the state of emergency would be lifted on June 15, and the consequences of the ending of the state of emergency on remote meetings, restaurants, and public safety measures.

Health Director Emma Dragon spoke about the lifting of the mask mandate and vaccine distribution.

Hanneke asked if the Town’s state of emergency has an end date; Bockelman responded that it would be co-terminus.

5. Action Items

a. State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Spraying

Griesemer stated the proposed plan is for the Town to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District as the Town’s alternative management plan as part of the Town’s opt-out application.

Dragon added that the alternative management plan is subject to approval through EEA and would allow us to opt of spraying by state mosquito control board, spoke about the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control Districts services, and the unanimous vote in support by the Board of Health.

Councilors asked about monitoring and evaluation of the program, residents' concern about spraying, and making information available to residents.

Public Comment:

Lenore Bryck, Amherst resident, spoke in support of the proposal and spoke about other work to manage mosquitos in Amherst.

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

MOTION: Griesemer moved, second by Ross, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 252, Section 2A(b)(2), having held a public meeting on May 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm, during which a period of public comment was held, and as recommended by the Board of Health, that the Town of Amherst join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District and use its alternative management plan to opt out of wide area pesticide application conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board, with the understanding that the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District's alternative mosquito management plan has been submitted and approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

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 was absent) in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 252, Section 2A(b)(2), having held a public meeting on May 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm, during which a period of public comment was held, and as recommended by the Board of Health, that the Town of Amherst join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District and use its alternative management plan to opt out of wide area pesticide application conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board, with the understanding that the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District's alternative mosquito management plan has been submitted and approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

- b. **Water and Sewer Rates**– postponed to a future agenda
- c. **Pomeroy Village Intersection**– postponed to a future agenda
- d. **Proposed Amendment to Zoning Bylaw Section 5.011 – Accessory Dwelling Units**– postponed to a future agenda
- e. **Proposed changes to Zoning Bylaw Section 3.3241 and Article 12 – Converted Dwelling**– postponed to a future agenda
- f. **Audit Request for Proposals (RFP) Committee Charge**

VOTED via consent agenda to adopt the Audit Request for Proposals (RFP) Committee charge, as presented.

- g. **Energy and Climate Action Committee Charge** – postponed to a future agenda

6. Appointments

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

- 7. Committee and Liaison Reports**
 - a. Community Resources Committee**
 - b. Elementary School Building Committee**
 - c. Finance Committee**
 - d. Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee**

Ryan asked for help from Councilors to recruit applicants for the Districting Advisory Board.

- 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, Disability Access Advisory Committee, Recreation Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee**

8. Approval of Minutes

VOTED via consent agenda to adopt the following Town Council minutes, as presented:

- February 16, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Finance Committee
- May 7, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Finance Committee
- May 3, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

9. Town Manager Report

De Angelis stated she is concerned there is still no functioning shower for homeless residents, one was purchased but it is not ADA compliant; Bockelman responded that the Town is working with Craig's Doors to come to a solution.

Hanneke asked that the splash park open early this year and asked if delays with construction at Kendrick Park will effect funding; Bockelman responded that the splash park will be open soon, and that the Town is working on the Kendrick Park delay.

Schoen asked about North Amherst library contracts; Bockelman responded he would report back on it.

10. Town Council Comments

Grieseimer briefly spoke about items moved to future agendas due to the length of the meeting.

a. Councilor Comments

Brewer asked about the Community Safety Working Group's presentation at the next regular Council meeting.

Schoen commented that staff added information on the north common on the Engage Amherst website.

Grieseimer thanked everyone for a very long evening.

11. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the President 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

12. Executive Session - *None*

13. Adjourn

Grieseemer declared the meeting adjourned at 11:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena O'Keeffe

Clerk of the Council

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

- 00. 05-17-2021 Draft Motions for Town Council
- 00. 05-17-2021 FINAL Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Finance Committee - Public Hearing on the FY22 Budget
- 00. 05-17-2021 FINAL Town Council Agenda
- 6.a. Resolution Opposing Closure of Gorse Childrens Center as voted by GOL 5-5-21
- 6.b. Race Amity Day 2021 Proclamation as voted by GOL_5-5-21
- 7.a. 20210513 DRAFT Reparations Report
- 7.a. DRAFT Charge AHRC
- 7.a. H.R.40
- 8.a. BOH - Mosquito Control Vote
- 8.a. Pollinator Resolution - signed
- 8.a. PVMCD Statement
- 8.a. PVMCD Presentation
- 8.b. CO FY22 - 10 Water and Sewer Rates
- 8.b. Water and Sewer Rate Memo 4.8.21
- 8.c. MassWorks_Pomeroy_Presentation_TownCouncil_Jan252021
- 8.c. Pomeroy Village MassWorks Grant Process Memo - 01-04-2021
- 8.d. ADU_Bylaw_Proposal_PlanningBoard_17Feb2021
- 8.d. Supplemental Dwelling Unit Zoning Bylaw Amendments - Memo to Town Council - 05-17-2021
- 8.e. Memo and proposed amended 3.b. Converted Dwelling Bylaw
- 8.f. DRAFT Audit RFP Review Committee Charge - voted by Finance 5-4-21 Reviewed by GOL 5-5-21_CLEAN
- 8.f. DRAFT Audit RFP Review Committee Charge - voted by Finance 5-4-21 Reviewed by GOL 5-5-21_REDLINED
- 11.a. 02-16-2021 DRAFT Special Town Council and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- 11.b. 05-07-2021 DRAFT Special Town Council and Finance Committee Minutes
- 11.c. 05-03-21 DRAFT Town Council Minutes
- 12. Town Manager Report 05-17-2021
- 2021-05-17 GOL Report to Town Council
- CSWG Final Report Part A
- Final Report to the CSWG 7GenMC
- Finance Committee report 5.17.21
- Town Budget FY22 Public Hearing Presentation - 5.13.21