



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 24, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Minutes**

Complete video is available online: <https://youtu.be/gFVZn9lW4hQ>

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, Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek, Department of Public Works Superintendent Guilford Mooring, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Minute-taker Lindsey McConnell, Community Safety Working Group Members Darius Cage, Deborah Ferreira, Pat Ononibaku, Brianna Owen, Russ Vernon-Jones, and Elisha Walker, 7Gen Consultants to the Community Safety Working Group Dr. Demetria Shabazz, Dr. Sonji Johnson Anderson, Terry Mullin, and Dr. Katie Lazdowski

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 6:31 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:

- May 27, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Special Meeting of the Town Council, Finance Committee, and Community Safety Working Group
- 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.
- Finance Committee: May 27, 1:00 p.m.
See additional meetings: [Finance Committee FY22 Budget Review Meeting Schedule](#)
Please note: Finance Committee meetings will begin at 1:00 p.m. in May
- Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee: June 2, 10:30 a.m.

- Town Services and Outreach Committee: May 27, 7:30 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 on parking regulation changes related to the North Common

Griesemer opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

Griesemer spoke about history of north common project including that it was brought to select board, select board did not act, plans introduced Nov 16 2020, referred to TSO, joint meetings held Dec 17 and Jan 18, brought back to the council and voted on March 22 to approve plan 3b as shown with no modifications. Was brought to council based on public way policy the council needs to hold a hearing. Announced in gazette, mailed to abutters, Hearing being held now

Ziomek presented on the North Common

- Extensive planning process, look at town website and engage Amherst for information
- TSO and Council discussed the plan in more detail with input from staff and community. Landed on plan 2 (also called 3B) supported by drawing developed by DPW
- 2 memos in the packet also summarize features of plan options with emphasis on parking
- Referenced March 16th memo from Mooring to compare and contrast plans including
 - South Pleasant very similar
 - Main street- Plan 3B includes 7 angled parking spaces,
 - Main street parking lot- plan 2 reduces lot to 23 spaces, plan 3B removes entire parking lot
 - Boltwood both plans have one way traffic from north to south
 - Both plans add 8 parking spaces on west side of street
 - Do nothing 43 spaces, plan 2 modified 38 spaces, plan 3B 27 spaces total (on main street, in lot and on Boltwood)

Griesemer invited Public comment

Sam MacLeod, Amherst resident, on CPA committee that authorized funding for the Common, thanks staff for efforts, going forward want to reiterate concerns for need for parking in Amherst in general, central parking is an issue, dormant now due to COVID, removing spaces will have an impact and mean more vehicles will be circling to look for spaces, ask Council to consider the need for parking options, know the business community is concerned about this, spoke in favor of parking garage

Michael Childs, Amherst resident, wrote a letter, do not see how council can proceed with 3B without first ensuring town has additional parking after 3B, at this point there is just talk about a parking garage, address garage after there are parking issues and then tax Town for it will outrage the town. Please consider the library will tear up town and reduce parking, 3B will decrease spaces, north common is most popular lot in town, money to redesign down not need to be spent this year and can be done in the future,

the design is poor including back in spaces for elderly residents, farmers market and common events will not have parking, spoke against reducing time limits for park to 2hours, spoke about how vote went against the parking study, and the council did not consider the nearby churches concern and the BID, spoke in favor of delaying the project.

Griesemer closed the hearing at 6:50pm. Moved agenda Item 8b

Agenda Item 8.b. Parking Regulations related to North Common

MOTION: Hanneke moved, seconded by Ross, in accordance with General Bylaw 3.14 and Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways, having held a public hearing on May 24, 2021, notice of which was published on the Town Bulletin Board for not less than 14 days on May 6, 2021 and published in a newspaper of general circulation in the town once in each of 2 weeks, the first publication not less than 14 days before the day of the hearing on May 10 and May 17, 2021, and notice mailed to abutters on May 5, 2021; and having referred the proposed regulations to the Town Services and Outreach Committee for review and recommendation, to make the following parking regulation changes related to the north Common:

Remove the Main Street parking lot with its existing 34 spaces at \$1.00 per hour, with a 4-hour limit and enforced from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Add seven (7) angled, back in, on street parking spaces on the south side of Main Street, west of Boltwood Ave intersection to be \$ 1.00 per hour with a 2-hour limit and enforced from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Add eight (8) Parallel, on street parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Ave between Main Street and Spring Street to be \$1.00 per hour with a 4-hour limit and enforced from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Remove two (2) parallel, on street parking spaces on the east side of Boltwood Ave between Main Street & Spring Street. Add spaces if possible on the east side of South Pleasant Street between Main Street and Spring Street to be \$1.00 per hour with a 2-hour limit and enforced from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Schoen spoke in opposition to the motion, stating the parking lot brings in \$51,000 per year in fees and an additional \$7,000 in fines, and those funds are needed for the transportation fund and specifically for busses which are vital to downtown businesses, and Grace Church. Schoen spoke about the safety of back-in angled parking and that a new garage has not been built yet.

Hanneke asked for clarification about the total number of parallel spaces that would be added on Boltwood Avenue. Mooring stated 6 spaces total would be added.

Pam spoke about parking revenue, protecting the common, confidence that we will have parking, and that revenue should not be our only guide.

Bahl-Milne asked about back-in parking, spoke in favor of a walkable, bike-able town, and in favor of the motion.

Mooring spoke about back-in parking.

Steinberg spoke about displacement of parking, potential increase in parking revenue in other areas, and back-in spaces working well in other communities.

Brewer spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that it sends a message that the Council thinks it knows better than businesses and Grace Church. Brewer suggested a practice back-in parking area at the high school parking lot or other area to give residents and visitors an opportunity to practice with the new arrangement.

DuMont agreed with Schoen and Brewer's statements and spoke in opposition to the motion.

Schoen added that the reasoning of her opposition is not based on revenue alone, and that the health of downtown businesses is also a factor.

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) in accordance with General Bylaw 3.14 and Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways, having held a public hearing on May 24, 2021, notice of which was published on the Town Bulletin Board for not less than 14 days on May 6, 2021 and published in a newspaper of general circulation in the town once in each of 2 weeks, the first publication not less than 14 days before the day of the hearing on May 10 and May 17, 2021, and notice mailed to abutters on May 5, 2021; and having referred the proposed regulations to the Town Services and Outreach Committee for review and recommendation, to make the following parking regulation changes related to the north Common:

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4. General Public Comment

Nadine Mesard, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of the Community Safety Working Group recommendations, and stated that the Town should continue to put money behind actions to make a difference and be at the front of change.

5. Consent Agenda

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

- 6.a. Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month Proclamation
- 6.b. Citation in Recognition of Mira Setty-Charity upon Receipt of the Gold Award Girl Scout
- 11. Approval of Minutes:
 - May 13, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes
 - May 17, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
 - May 18, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes

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

- 6.a. Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month Proclamation
- 6.b. Citation in Recognition of Mira Setty-Charity upon Receipt of the Gold Award Girl Scout
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6. Resolutions and Proclamations

a. Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month Proclamation

Ross spoke about the proclamation, stating he is proud to co-sponsor with De Angelis for third year in a row. Ross spoke about the additions to the proclamation this year recognizing Pride’s historic roots as work of trans people of color, adding a clause to increase awareness of the trans community and spoke about the increase in violent attacks on members of the trans community over the past year including the murder of an activist from western Mass.

VOTED via consent agenda to adopt the Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month Proclamation, as presented.

b. Citation in Recognition of Mira Setty-Charity upon Receipt of the Gold Award Girl Scout

Griesemer congratulated Mira on her work.

VOTED via consent agenda to adopt the Citation in Recognition of Mira Setty-Charity upon Receipt of the Gold Award Girl Scout, as presented.

Brewer commented that we were hoping to hear from Ash Hartwell about Race Amity Day but that he was not available at this time, and spoke about the importance of the Race Amity Day Proclamation.

Pam asked about the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Griesemer spoke about the Gold Award achievement and requirements, and stated there is information in the Council’s meeting materials packet about the award and Mira’s Gold Award project.

7. Presentations and Discussion

a. Community Safety Working Group (CSWG)

Bockelman spoke about the Community Safety Working Group’s work, energy and commitment, including personal cost to their families and their own health both physical and emotional, and thanked the group for their hard work.

CSWG Co-Chair Owen spoke about the presentation and invited each CSWG member present an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Cage, Ferreira, Ononibaku, Vernon-Jones, Owen, and Walker introduced themselves and spoke about the reasons they wanted to become members of the CSWG.

CSWG members presented their report and recommendations, including:

- The charge from the Council to “make recommendation on alternative ways of providing public safety services
- Recommendations were very intentional- public safety is anti-racist and that preventative series are offered
- Spoke in support of work of Reparations of Amherst and their Research, it helped the CSWG work, including understanding historical context

- White supremacy in Amherst, founding of Amherst based on genocide, Amherst in Pontiac war to give blankets with small pox and get ride of indigenous people also red lining. Rent increasing for family of color, schools having racially target issues
- History of policing- beginning with slave patrols in the south, great migration police department in northern cities grew, law used as a tool to allow white landowners to remain in power, spoke of those who have lost their lives at the hands of the police. If there had been alternative to armed police would the outcome be different. Can the police force ever provide safety to BIPOC
- Redlining- deeds restricting who can live where, black and brown residents being pushed to certain communities, staff and services do not live here because of high cost of living
- Reviewed police data- Officer initiated calls, disparities about which neighborhood practice and patrols, profiling and over surveillance of certain communities, APD using community policing approach
- A Tale of Two cities- hours of testimony and data white folks have always felt safe, BIPOC community has not. Youth attendance – BIPOC youth are over surveilled, to see if police officer is watching you, accused of stealing, group chats to support each other
- Shared video of a noise complaint- 5 officers to arrest one young woman
- Overwhelming new apartments geared at students who can pay to live there
- Riots on campus, white students can set off fireworks
- Video of predominately white students partying with officers doing nothing
- On May 25th 2020 George Floyd murdered, repetition of egregious acts sparked action. As a response to national and local uprising, June 21 Council adopted resolutions, to commit the Town Manager was assigned goals, Town Manager formed the CSWG

7 Gen Movement Collective Research presented on participatory action research.

Demetria Shabazz, Sonji Johnson-Anderson, and Katie Lazdowski spoke about the following:

- Reviewed what PAR is, stakeholders are experts, uncovers reason behind injustices
- Benefits of PAR including explore and address injustice
- Why it was used, empowers and actively engages participants and promotes collaboration
- Positionality of researchers, participants decide what questions are asked, collect data and analyze it

Owen reviewed the CSWG recommendations to the Town Manager and read the Town Council’s Resolution in the Aftermath of the Death of Mr. George Floyd.

Brewer thanked the CSWG for their report and work, and asked about funding in the budget and phasing in the CRESS program as a way to get the program started.

Owen responded that the CRESS program won’t be effective unless fully funded, that evaluation of the program will not be accurate without full finding and implementation, and the necessity of the other recommendations.

DuMont thanked CSWG for their presentation and spoke in favor of creating a director position for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion department, and asked about a phased approach.

Steinberg thanked CSWG, spoke about his background in legal aid, stated that transition is not easy and that programs in communities that are totally unlike Amherst they are all substantially larger communities. Any program requires a transition to a point of significant change and the steps in transition can be very complex. Also if going to have two departments that are running in parallel and each need to

run effectively, how large does each program need to be to do its work and what is the consequence of that in the context of the community. Spoke about experience with domestic violence and the need for enforcement of things like restraining orders and police to respond if a victim calls for help. If we end up with an inadequately staffed Amherst Police Department (APD) to do these things.

Owen spoke to calls spoke about LEAP to get a more exact data that CRESS could handle; CSWG have worked with Safe Passage, CSWG does understand the transition will be tough, for BIPOC communities this discomfort has existed for a while.

Walker spoke about the first half the charge from the Town Manager, identified things that can be outsourced, spoke about calls being moved away from the APD and to the need for more funding to the CRESS program. In terms of domestic violence (DV), survivors say the police were not helpful but the work of other agencies to protect them in terms of first responding to low-risk conflicts. There is a spectrum of DV calls and more funding should go in to which calls can be moved to CRESS. Further emphasizes real need for funding to get this off the ground and need resources to figure this out.

Owen this is also why we recommend BIPOC cultural center with preventative efforts like case management that would help address this issue.

Hanneke thanked CSWG, and asked about the youth center and cultural center, as there seems to have some overlap with the library and the family center at the schools and the recreation department. Hanneke asked if there was any thinking about the overlap things are providing and thought about with the hiring of BIPOC staff to run programs there. Hanneke stated support for the CRESS program and think it needs more money for getting it up and running. Hanneke asked about mutual aid between UMASS police and APD, if that is appropriate, there are concerns about the UMASS PD respond and the Town would not control their response or training.

Owen responded that CRESS should be fully funded with 26 employees from day one and no phasing. With regards to overlap the intentions of institution versus adding intentions. Good to stand behind something intentionally designed for BIPOC communities.

Ferreira add that the CSWG conducted a lot of research that found the community saying they are living in fear. If you are really committed to making a space for everyone especially in terms of CRESS. Need unarmed response, Chief Livingstone said the mental health calls have any been unsuccessful? Spoke about the number of teams that would go out. Spoke about the benefits everyone will get from these recommendations.

Ononibaku spoke about Town government and Town offices staffed by white people, the recommendation to have CRESS program be a department of its own with a BIPOC director at the same level as the APD and Fire Chiefs, and to create another department with a BIPOC administrator, we need to create positions with BIPOC employees to make decisions for the Town.

Owen spoke about mutual aid, we are a Town operating with 3 other police departments, and that college students are probably going to utilize CRESS as well.

Pam thanked the CSWG, spoke in favor of the Youth Center and the importance of kids getting the support only some kids get when their parents have the ability. Pam stated support for the committee and the APD, spoke about how to do big change that is fair and equitable and not at cost of people who work for APD.

Bahl-Milne thanked CSWG for their work and spoke about the goal the investment will be successful, no doubt we need a radical change in policing and that the CRESS program is what we need. Bahl-Milne asked about the budget and staffing, number of calls expected, and what will be needed to launch the program.

Owen spoke about the shortfalls of the Cahoots program in Eugene, OR, and spoke about the importance of fully funding the CRESS program.

Walker spoke about people who police are not working for them, what they can do instead. This is a police alternative. The estimates we got about the amount of calls we got from data from APD broken down in to categories. Would result in 30% to be handled. Don't expect that to be exact and understand further research will be needed and just given this we expect it to be a pretty large number. Cahoots is inside PD and we want this to be outside of the PD, its own program and will need more funding.

Vernon-Jones spoke to more differences between Cahoots program, contracted out to mental health agency and only handles mental health calls, and the CRESS program will handle other calls including noise complaints and other non-violent calls. Spoke about the estimates of percentages of calls that could be picked up by the CRESS program.

Owen stated there will be specific questions that come up. Emphasis we are willing to work out details but have to give us time. We don't want to hand you something vague, the CSWG wants to be a part of implementing this to make it a reality.

Hanneke asked about the dispatch service for the CRESS program and about the second part of the CSWG charge in terms of the Charter's reorganization plan requirement.

Walker stated a few members visited the dispatch center and there is the ability to use the current dispatching services and there is a way to keep it separate from police records, keep it confidential, we want people to also be able to call CRESS directly without going through the APD.

Ononibaku stated when we start the program not everyone will have the CRESS number; the CSWG wants to make sure they can access CRESS if they call 911 and we hope in years to come people will call CRESS directly.

Ferreira spoke about the need for marketing and media campaign for the program, and needs to be sure there are dispatchers to CRESS separately, so independent staff can be responsive.

Bahl-Milne asked about diversity at the APD, complaints, and concerns unique to Amherst in general.

Johnson-Anderson stated the BIPOC community is talking about experiencing with police interaction renders us a vulnerable community because there is overwhelming fear and unwillingness to speak because the experiences are re-traumatizing. We tried to protect the identities of our participants. They are so specific if we gave all quotes their identities would be revealed. The comments in the report may seem general but they are specifically about experiences with the APD.

Dr. Shabazz spoke to issue of complaints in the APD, part of research revealed there is fear with interactions with the police they also fear going to the police and lodging a complaint because it may go nowhere and because it may cause a safety issue. In 2014 police in Boston consulted with UMASS PD and APD after the Blarney Blowout situation. He recommended there be a formal complaint process. That has never been taken up with the PD to confirm complaints will be safe and anonymous.

Owen expressed concern about hiring, we are recommending hiring for CRESS be made by CSWG and DEI department, the CRESS program will increase diversity in response.

Bahl-Milne stated we need to hear specific statements separate from the general comments. In order to correct the system and actual practice will be valuable to separate lived experiences.

Dr. Shabazz agreed need to be specific with the issues but were unable to do that safety without identifying the situation these folks were caught up in with the police. We created contracts with our community ambassadors who interviewed people within their affinity groups and we had to guarantee their feeling of safety and we did that as the researchers that we are. At some point, which we were not able to do in the amount of time we had, if given more time it would be helpful to parse that out, not only in terms of good research practices which I believe we did and it could be more helpful to give you the specificity to offer some more corrective practices and policies. Continuing the CSWG will continue to extend the type of research that is needed in Amherst.

Ferreira added that part of the question will be addressed in the second part of the CSWG charge. In terms of what 7Gen did with care and specificity, it is re-traumatizing to go talk to folks, they were not able to get folks to talk to them the first time they went out because people were afraid they are going too profiled, harassed, and pursued. In forums, BIPOC people said they do not come in to our Town because they are afraid.

Public Comment:

Angelica Castro, Amherst resident, spoke in support what has been said, spoke about raising four children here, support about fear and trauma that exist in the community in DEI training to with organization and businesses around time, this is systemic and runs deep. Thanked CSWG's work and dedication.

Lauren Mills, Amherst resident, commented that the CSWG presentation was thorough and well researched, thanked the CSWG, if you want this group to answer all of these question then there should be no question they need more finding. In terms of police, people of color need an alternative and not a reform. Spoke about communities of color do not want to fit in to white spaces, I hope with the recommendations there is trauma informed care given to the dispatchers and I do have an interest in finding out how the police department deals with and in informed about trauma. Spoke about the need for trauma informed care.

Allegra Clark, Amherst resident, thanked CSWG and 7 Gen, spoke in support of the recommendations made by the group and spoke in favor of CSWG being extending beyond December.

Alex Lefebvre, Amherst resident, thanked CSWG, the amount of time they had to change problems that have embedded for centuries. Spoke in favor of BIPOC community center. Spoke in favor of recommendations of CSWG and will require dramatic rather than incremental shifts. Spoke about the moral nature of budget and the hope we can show all communities members that Amherst is committed to their safety.

Michele Miller, Amherst resident and co-founder of Reparations for Amherst, spoke about anniversary of George Floyd's death. Spoke about work the CSWG has done in short amount of time. White folks may not be able to understand and have heard people say they support these changes in other places and not in our peaceful town. That is exactly why we need to do this, be a model, this can be done thoughtfully and sustainably. Discomfort leads to positive growth. Pointed to page 11 of the reports.

Zoë Crabtree, Amherst resident, thanked CSWG for emotional and intellectual labor, thanked 7Gen, spoke in favor of fully funded the CSWG's recommendation, spoke about the vital pieces of DEI and youth center of the recommendations. Spoke about hope that the work does not exclude CSWG as they have made it clear they want to be involved.

Sid Ferreira, Amherst resident, thanked CSWG and 7 Gen, spoke about difference between commitment and priority. When it is a priority it means it is the first thing on the list. Spoke in favor of implementing all of the recommendations of the CSWG.

Caroline Murray, Amherst resident, commented that the FY15 social services budget was \$1.8 million and police was \$4.5. FY21 social services budget was cut to \$1.5 and police increased to \$5.3. This is an example of how Amherst is not prioritizing the people who live here. When I raised children here, I receive subsidy for child care, neighbor received rent subsidy, and none of those things exist now. Amherst has been gentrifying and prioritizing residents with money over other residents.

Owen stated that limiting public comment is an example of white supremacy at work. Hope when we present again you do not limit comment and force us to squeeze in our presentation.

Dr. Shabazz thanked public who stayed up late to offer comments. Their support and input will be important. Make one last comment about DEI- we have almost 50% BIPOC and AAPI in Amherst school system, if we are to retain rich diversity and to return here and want to raise their families here we must have a DEI department, what we have now is a replication of what spaces where people of color, AAPI and indigenous folks have to negotiate on regular basis.

Ferreira thanked Owen and Walker for their leadership, and thanked the public for speaking. Ferreira asked why we are only focusing on CRESS at the meeting on Thursday and not the other recommendations.

Ononibaku thanked the CSWG co-chairs, stated that the Council should have devoted the entire meeting to the CSWG presentation and discussion, and that this is another example of white supremacy and disrespect.

8. Action Items

a. Water and Sewer Rates

Steinberg stated the Finance Committee recommended the financial order and rate changes. The committee report addressed rate projections through FY26. Steinberg stated the Finance committee was provided with information about what will happen to average rate payers with these changes, the median water bill will up \$23 a year and the sewer bill will go up \$17 a year.

Brewer confirmed the information was in the packet.

Pam stated the rates are comparable to nearby towns and Amherst rates are lower. The increase in rates reflects long term planning and thanked Mooring and the department for long term planning.

Hanneke thanked DPW and water department especially for calculating the median rates. Asked about rate structure discussion, thought we'd hear about it this year.

Griesemer stated it was delayed because of the skewed nature of the water usage due to COVID and it will be addressed.

Schoen stated a memo has been written to request alternative scenarios, it is not just a delay because of use rates, it will give a sense of different options and how it will impact long term rates and it can be shared with the Council.

MOTION: Griesemer moved, second by Hanneke, to adopt “Approval Order FY22-10, an order setting Water and Sewer Rates to be effective July 1, 2021” as recommended by the Finance Committee report of May 17, 2021. Motion by: Griesemer Seconded by: Hanneke

VOTED unanimously by roll call to adopt “Approval Order FY22-10, an order setting Water and Sewer Rates to be effective July 1, 2021” as recommended by the Finance Committee report of May 17, 2021. Motion by: Griesemer Seconded by: Hanneke

c. Pomeroy Village Intersection

Schoen asked about what the review at 25% and 75% means, and expressed concern about interactions between pedestrians, cyclist and children.

Mooring spoke about the draft survey, basic starting traffic counts will be available and once we have that we can better see the impact to businesses and about pedestrian safety.

Schoen asked about pedestrian traffic data.

Pam spoke about concerns regarding children, suggested a speed bump near the intersection, and the difficulty of drivers to navigate roundabouts.

Brewer spoke about the Town Services and Outreach Committee review, the balance of individual comfort levels and safety, and the need for the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Disability Advisory Access Committee (DAAC) to review the plans before the Council sees them again.

DuMont spoke about constituents’ concerns and stated that opponents often turn into supporters after the installation of a roundabout.

Ross stated everyone is on the same page prioritizing pedestrian and bicycle safety, and we differ in opinions on the best way to achieve that. Have to trust research that is conclusive that roundabouts are better from traffic calming and pedestrian safety. TAC did an extensive job and they agree the roundabout is the better way to achieve safety.

Bahl-Milne spoke about concerns for people with disabilities.

Mooring spoke about using a crosswalk signal with a voice and chirps, working to make sure that is finalized.

Steinberg stated he spoke with someone on DAAC who is concerned they will not be able to see the 25% report and comment on it.

De Angelis stated one member of the DAAC is concerned is the maintenance of audible signals. Asked why we don’t hear the audible cue at Amity and Main Street intersection. Concerned about maintenance standards.

Mooring stated the signal was working this week. It does turn itself down when ambient noise is down.

MOTION: Griesemer moved, second by Ryan, to direct the Town Manager to proceed with an intersection design as a single-lane roundabout designed with consideration of the reports of the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Disability Access Advisory Committee at the intersection of

West Street and Pomeroy and West Pomeroy Lanes, with the Town Council to review 25% and 75% schematic designs. Motion by: Griesemer Seconded by: Ryan

VOTED 10-0-3 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors Pam, Schoen, and Swartz Abstained)

d. Rezoning of CVS Parking Lot

Ross spoke about the proposed change, stated a little over a year ago the Council heard a presentation on the Destination Amherst plan, the Kendrick Park playground underway, North Common voted on now, another initiative of that plan is a public private municipal parking lot. Given concerns we've heard from Councilors and residents about concerns about parking it seems like a good time to work on this, many things have to occur including rezoning, execute an RFP, and it would have to go through a special permitting process. This is the first step, return to that conversation and see if the Council is interested in taking first step.

Ryan stated this structure will serve the expanded and renovated Jones Library and the Amherst Cinema which are both important destinations for our Town.

Pam asked if it would be mostly public parking accessible for all of us, would not bail out the new buildings and initial conversation with abutters have been thinking about his for years, have expected it and have thoughtful comments about it.

Pam disconnected at 10:40 p.m.

Hanneke asked that it not be a joint hearing because CRC is having a very difficult time forming a quorum for joint meetings.

Pam reconnected at 10:43 p.m.

Councilors discussed potential parking garage options, what the zoning change would allow in that Town-owned plot once re-zoned, use of the CVS parking lot by large delivery trucks, rezoning the single parcel rather than the block, the "conspiracy theory" that the Town is seeking to rezone the lot so that a private developer can build apartments there, potential revenue from a future parking garage, the role of abutters in the process, and other steps in the process after this initial zoning change.

MOTION: Griesemer moved, second by Ryan, to refer the proposed rezoning of parcel 14A-33 from RG to BG to the Planning Board and the Community Resources Committee for hearings held no later than July 28, 2021, and for a written recommendation and an explanation as to whether the proposed bylaw is not inconsistent with the Master Plan from the Planning Board to the Town Council and to the Community Resources Committee no later than 21 days after the hearings, and for the Community Resources Committee to send a written recommendation to the Town Council and to submit all materials to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee for review of clarity, consistency, and actionability within 60 days of the hearing held by the Community Resources Committee.

VOTED 11-2 by roll call (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors DuMont and Swartz voted No) to refer the proposed rezoning of parcel 14A-33 from RG to BG to the Planning Board and the Community Resources Committee for hearings held no later than July 28, 2021, and for a written recommendation and an explanation as to whether the proposed bylaw is not inconsistent with the Master Plan from the Planning Board to the Town Council and to the Community Resources Committee no later than 21 days after the hearings, and for the Community Resources Committee to send a written recommendation to the

Town Council and to submit all materials to the Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee for review of clarity, consistency, and actionability within 60 days of the hearing held by the Community Resources Committee.

9. Appointments - None

10. Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. Community Resources Committee**
- b. Elementary School Building Committee** - Schoen stated the proposed choice for OPM is moving and the committee is on the way to June 7th OPM selection panel.
- c. Finance Committee** - Steinberg stated there are several items on the committee's schedule, still trying to get the Council a summary of the discussions of the various departments' budgets.
- d. Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee** - Ryan stated more applicants for DAB have been received, continue to ask you to reach out to residents to apply. Hoping to have appointments for the Council June 28th.
- e. Town Services and Outreach Committee** - DuMont stated will be looking at reappointments, background information on solid waste hauler options, the Triangle Street pedestrian accommodations and ask the Town Manager about the Unhoused Resident Working Group charge.
- 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**

Pam reported the Council on Aging is working on reorganizing, reviewing the charge, and discussing the timing of a possible retreat.

11. Approval of Minutes

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

- May 13, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes
- May 17, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
- May 18, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes

12. Town Manager Report

Brewer spoke about remote participation, District Advisory Board applicants thought that meetings would be virtual, need to continue to be on this issue of being able to continue remote meetings on the state level.

Bahl-Milne asked about engaging with UMass about housing, having conversations about how lack of housing is impacting UMass.

Hanneke asked the Town Manager to consider updating the Remote Participation Policy, as it is stricter than the Open Meeting Law.

Bockelman responded that he will look at it; June 1st we reopen Town Hall, June 15th is date set we go back to in person meetings if legislation does not move before then.

Bockelman added the Town received a bond rating of AA plus and did new borrowing at excellent rates. Construction is happening downtown, with grant funds to repair crosswalks and sidewalks. Memorial Day event will be small purposefully. Kudos to health team continuing the vaccination clinics.

DuMont asked about land on University Drive north of Amity Street and building opportunities there.

Bockelman responded that it is not the University's land but they may have input on development if and when that happens.

13. Town Council Comments

a. President Report

Griesemer referred to an appointment memo in the packet for the Audit Request for Proposals Committee.

Griesemer stated that last Friday the Council did not go into executive session because we received notice the case, 2180CV00043 Gray, Carol et al vs. Susan Audette in her capacity as Acting Town Clerk, had been dismissed, and that removed the reason to meet in executive session. The dismissal or notice of withdrawal was submitted by the plaintiffs.

Bockelman stated the Town has a signed contract with the MBLC and will continue to make progress.

Bahl-Milne asked about the advanced funding in the current fiscal year.

Bockelman responded that the funds are expected in FY22.

b. Future Agenda Items

Griesemer briefly reviewed upcoming Council agenda items, including the Public Forum on the Capital Improvement Program, first reading of the zoning moratorium bylaw, and zoning proposals that were delayed at the previous Council meeting.

c. Councilor Comments

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

15. Executive Session - *None*

16. Adjourn

President Griesemer declared the meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena O'Keeffe

Clerk of the Council

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

00. 05-24-2021 Draft Motions for Town Council - 5-21 186

00. 05-24-2021 FINAL Town Council Agenda - revised	281
6.a. Citation in Recognition of Mira Setty - voted by GOL	133
6.b. LGBTQ Proclamation 2021	208
6.c. 2021-05-03 TSO Report to Town Council (2)	537
7.a. CRESS Budget Proposal -Salaries and operating costs only	45
7.a. CRESS details-8	137
7.a. CSWG Budget Committee-Cress Program Estimate of Cost- Final 4-21-2021 (1)	45
7.a. CSWG Final Report Part A	10096
7.a. Final Report to the CSWG 7GenMC988	
8.a. CO FY22 - 10 Water and Sewer Rates	126
8.a. Finance Committee report 5.17.21	193
8.a. Water and Sewer Rate Memo 4.8.21	255
8.b. 2021-02-08 TSO Report to Town Council	203
8.b. Abutters list for Town Common	205
8.b. Amherst Town Center Public Parking	510
8.b. Bulletin Board Notice - Parking hearing on North Common posted 5-6-2021	474
8.b. Main Street Parking Lot - Tickets and Parking Revenue - 05-2021	44
8.b. Municipal Lot Information	137
8.b. North Common DPW Revised PD TP 20-16 Plan 2 - 02-02-21	643
8.b. North Common DPW Revised PD TP 20-16 Plan 2 - 02-02-21	643
8.b. North Common DPW Revised PLAN 3B - 01-26-21 (1)	803
8.b. Notice to North Common Abutters Public Hearing May 24 - FINAL	193
8.b. On-Street Meter Rates	150
8.c. MassWorks_Pomeroy_Presentation_TownCouncil_Jan252021	4986
8.c. Pomeroy Village MassWorks Grant Process Memo - 01-04-2021	216
8.d. Zoning Amendment_Parking Garage 5-24-21	105
11.a. 05-13-2021 DRAFT Special Town Council Meeting minutes	274
11.b. 05-17-2021 DRAFT Town Council Minutes	319
11.c. 05-18-2021 DRAFT Special Town Council Meeting minutes	273
12. Town Manager Report 05-24-2021	701
Invitation to Race Amity Day 2021 v.2	3379