

Cohasset Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call
7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 20(b), following Governor Baker's declaration of a state of emergency in the Commonwealth arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Advisory Committee will meet virtually utilizing remote technology. **All votes will be taken by a Roll-Call Vote.**

Documents Received: Alternative Energy Committee Presentation; Sewer / Cook Estate Presentation; Draft Minutes for Advisory Committee Meetings held on 3/2/22, 3/8/22, 3/9/22, 3/15/22 and 3/16/22.

This meeting was recorded. Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair Robert Hillman.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeanne Astino, Michael Barclay, Fran Collins, Robert Hillman, J. Patrick Kennedy, Mark Maggi, Mary McGoldrick and Meg Wheeler.

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Adam Amann

Guests: Chris Senior, Town Manager; Don Piatt, Director of Finance; Pam Fahey, Director of Public Health; Chair Tonya Bodell of the Alternative Energy Committee; Chair Russ Bonnetti of the Community Preservation Act Committee; Vice-Chair Corey Evans and Clerk Jean Healey-Dippold of the Select Board.

1. Presentation by the Alternative Energy Committee on Town Meeting Warrant Article

Chair Robert Hillman welcomed Tonya Bodell, Chair of the Alternative Energy Committee, who made a presentation on a warrant article for the upcoming Town Meeting to fund the Phase I costs of a detailed study of a microgrid for Cohasset. The AEC has worked on this project for approximately 2 years, which arose from widespread power outages during storm conditions. The expected cost of Phase I of the project is \$1 million, with 75% recoverable back from a possible FEMA grant. The AEC is recommending expenditure of up to \$1 million by the Town, on the condition that 75% be reimbursed from grant (FEMA) funding. Ms. Bodell noted that Phase II of the project, development and implementation of the microgrid following design, is expected to cost up to \$36 million, again with 75% recoverable back from grant sources. Ms. Bodell highlighted benefits to the Town from Phase I of the project, even if the Town did not proceed to Phase II. She responded to questions by members of the Advisory Committee. At Chair Hillman's suggestion, a vote on this warrant article was deferred until a subsequent meeting.

2. Affordable Housing Trust Property Transfer Warrant Article

Chair Robert Hillman asked Town Manager Chris Senior to make a short presentation on the warrant article (currently #15) in which the Town would transfer ownership of two undeveloped real estate parcels to the Town's Affordable Housing Trust for development of affordable housing. The parcels are located on Mill Lane and Heather Drive, with the Affordable Housing Trust intending to proceed with

development of the Mill Lane parcel for affordable housing, and to proceed with sale of the Heather Drive parcel to raise funds for affordable housing in other locations in Town. Chris Senior responded to questions by members of the Advisory Committee.

- J. Patrick Kennedy moved to recommend the Affordable Housing Property Transfer warrant article to Town Meeting; Mark Maggi seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE, except Fran Collins who abstained (7-0-1).

3. Remote Participation for Town Meeting Warrant Article

Chair Hillman introduced Corey Evans, Vice-Chair and Jean Healey-Dippold, Clerk of the Select Board, who presented the Select Board's intended warrant article for remote participation at Town Meetings. Approval of remote participation would require adoption by the Mass. Legislature, and there was a discussion of the general benefits of increased opportunities for participation in Town Meetings. Questions by Advisory Committee members were responded to. Fran Collins expressed concern that a remote or remote/hybrid meeting would be detrimental to the character and nature of Town Meeting.

- Meg Wheeler moved to recommend the Remote Participation for Town Meeting warrant article to Town Meeting; Mark Maggi seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE, except Fran Collins who vote NAY (7-1-0).

4. Cook Estate Expansion of Sewer District Warrant Article

Chris Senior introduced Pam Fahey, Director of Public Health, who presented the warrant article in which the Town's sewer district would be expanded to include 21 homes in the Cook Estate development off upper Sohier Street. This article arises from a public health emergency, as the Cook Estate's private septic system has failed after 10 years, and no other feasible alternative for handling the septic waste in this neighborhood exists. The Cohasset Sewer District has capacity to handle the increased flow associated with these homes, and the Sewer Board has voted to approve this expansion. There will be no monetary cost to the Town of Cohasset, with an understanding that the uptake of sewer capacity is a hidden cost. The private property owners of the homes at Cook Estate will absorb all financial costs of this project. Pam Fahey responded to questions by Advisory Committee members.

- Meg Wheeler moved to recommend the Cook Estate Expansion of Sewer District warrant article to Town Meeting; Mark Maggi seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE (8-0-0).

5. Capital Budget Request Warrant Article

Chris Senior updated the Advisory Committee that the Capital Budget Committee is not yet ready to recommend and present its list of projects, following the more detailed presentation at the Joint Advisory Committee and Select Board meeting held on March 22, 2022. Mike Barclay, liaison to the Capital Budget Committee, updated the Advisory Committee on several projects under discussion. No votes were taken.

6. Community Preservation Act Warrant Article

Chair Robert Hillman welcomed Russ Bonnetti, Chair of the Community Preservation Act Committee, who made a short presentation on projects under consideration by the CPA Committee. Chair Rob Hillman recused himself and left the meeting due to his service on the Cohasset Historical Society Board

of Trustees, as that organization has an application for funding into CPA for this Town Meeting cycle. The possible CPA projects include funding for the Cohasset Affordable Housing Trust of \$250,000 (with \$250,000 more possible later with grant funding); \$8,500 for digitizing document collection costs for the Cohasset Historical Society; \$15,000 for maintenance and improvement costs to the Harbormaster's Minot Light engineering building; \$100,000 for window and door replacements at the 60 Elm Street subsidized housing complex, with \$50,000 more for the community center building roof at that complex. Mr. Bonnetti also stated that the CPA Committee is having discussions about possible funding of \$200,000 for replacement of the Town Library roof, but that the Capital Budget Committee may fund that request. Mr. Bonnetti responded to questions by Advisory Committee members. No votes were taken.

7. Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of meeting posting / Upcoming Meetings: No 48-hour business was discussed that was not on the Agenda. Upcoming meetings: March 30; possible Joint Meeting with Select Board on March 31 for School Department budget presentation, as the School Committee will not present the proposed School Department budget to the public until its meeting on March 30.

8. Minutes of Prior Meetings

- Mark Maggi moved to approve the Minutes for the 3/2/22 Meeting; Mary McGoldrick seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE (8-0-0).
- Mark Maggi moved to approve the Minutes for the 3/8/22 Joint Meeting with the Select Board; Mary McGoldrick seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE, except members who were absent from that meeting (Robert Hillman, Mike Barclay and Meg Wheeler) (5-0-3).
- Mark Maggi moved to approve the Minutes for the 3/9/22 Meeting; Mary McGoldrick seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE, except members who were absent from that meeting (Meg Wheeler) (7-0-1).
- Mark Maggi moved to approve the Minutes for the 3/15/22 Joint Meeting with the Select Board; Mary McGoldrick seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE, except members who were absent from that meeting (Mike Barclay and Mary McGoldrick) (6-0-2).
- Mark Maggi moved to approve the Minutes for the 3/16/22 Meeting; Mary McGoldrick seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE, except members who were absent from that meeting (Mike Barclay and Mary McGoldrick) (6-0-2).

Motion to Adjourn by Mary McGoldrick, seconded by Mark Maggi, and all present members voted Aye (8-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.