

Amherst Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Approved 3/15/2018
Thursday March 1, 2018
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Attendance: Joseph Jayne, Bernie Kubiak, Sharon Povinelli, Janice Ratner (Vice Chair), Anurag Sharma, Marylou Theilman (Chair). Absent: Tim Neale

Others in Attendance: Sonia Aldrich (Co-Finance Director), Rob Crowner (Chair Zoning Subcommittee), Christine Brestrup (Planning Director).

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Proposed Zoning Amendments for Annual Town Meeting: *Crowner, Brestrup:*

**Recreational Marijuana Retail Sales locations:* To see if town will vote to amend the zoning bylaw by amending article 3. This will limit the number of retail marijuana locations to 8 in the town of Amherst.

**Medical Marijuana Treatment Center & Offsite Medical Marijuana Dispensary – Non-Profit Status:* To see if the town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending article 12. These centers can be “for profit” if they sell recreational marijuana. This amendment will remove the “non-profit” status.

**Marijuana Uses:* To see if the town will vote to amend the zoning bylaws by amending article 12. The town’s bylaw only has a category for storefront or medical treatment centers. This amendment would open up the bylaw to include other kinds of marijuana businesses that may want to do business in Amherst.

**Supplemental Dwelling Units:* To see if the town will vote to amend the zoning bylaw by amending article 5. This zoning amendment would increase the size of supplemental dwelling units (supplemental apartments and supplemental detached dwelling units) from a maximum of 800 sq. feet to a maximum of 1000 sq. feet.

**Demolition Delay Bylaw:* To see if the town will vote to amend article 13. The Historical commission, with support from the planning board, contemplated changes to this bylaw which would have included extending the delay time to 18 months from 12, which they decided would not be changed. They also plan to bring more clarity to the process of what projects are subject to the bylaw. Proposed changes would also include a provision that would allow the delay to wind-up before the end of the 12 month period.

**Amend Official Zoning Map:* To see if the town will vote to amend the official zoning map by changing *outlying residential* to *low-density residential* in all area of town not served by public water or sewer. This could result in fewer houses built in town and bring our zoning bylaws more into harmony with the goals of the master plan.

**Inclusionary Zoning Bylaw:* The purpose of this petition is to promote the general public welfare by maintaining and increasing the supply of affordable housing in the Town of Amherst.

Operating Budget Votes: Amounts (\$) voted are available on grid handout.

Retirement Assessments: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Regional Lockup: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB): 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Reserve Fund: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

General Government: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Public Safety: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Public Works: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Conservation & Development: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Community Services: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Debt Service: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Sewer Fund: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Water Fund: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Solid Waste Fund: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Transportation Fund: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Revolving Fund Reauthorization: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

Committee & Liaison Reports:

Library – No update.

Joint Capital Planning Committee – Fire/EMT capital discussion of ambulance and equipment.

Petitioner capital requests were instituted for the first time this year. Process needs to be reviewed, as there are many questions as to the role of the JCPC.

DPW/Fire: No update. Next meeting will be soon.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The minutes of January 8, 2018 were approved: 6-0-1 absent

The minutes of January 25, 2018 were approved: 6-0-1 absent

The minutes of February 1, 2018 were approved: 5-1 abstain, 1 absent

The minutes of February 15, 2018 were approved: 6-0-1 absent

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Joe Jayne, Acting Clerk

Documents used:

- * List of Proposed Zoning Amendments for Annual Town Meeting 2018.
- * Warrant Article Petition Form (Zoning map bylaw).
- * FC Committee Positions and Budget Recommendations - grid handout.