



Residents' Advisory Committee (RAC)
May 21, 2019 – 10:00am
Community Room, Amherst Police Station
111 Main Street

Minutes

Present: Mr. Jim Pistrang (Chair), Ms. Connie Kruger, Ms. Keisha Dennis

Note taker: Ms. Angela Mills

Meeting called to order by Chair Pistrang at 10:11am

Minutes to approve: Look at Ms. Kruger's suggested changes to the minutes. Get the final edited set from Mr. Pistrang.

Ms. Kruger read her changes to the group.

See all of Ms. Kruger's changes and make changes accordingly – make sure to ADD LIST OF DOCUMENTS presented at the meeting to the end of the approved final minutes. Remove "draft" watermark.

Change "youth" to "full pool of candidates."

Second to last paragraph – make sure to focus on diplomatically ... six not eight years for full term.

**Ms. Kruger moved to approve minutes from May 7, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Ms. Dennis.
UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Acknowledged that we will begin to list the documents that are referenced during the meetings of the RAC.

Ms. Mills will begin putting titles and dates on all documents referenced.

REVIEW OF INTERVIEWS SINCE LAST MEETING:

Ms. Kruger reported to the group on the Participatory Budgeting Commission Interviews.

- Not a very large pool of candidates
- Several people from prior interviews will be contacted after the fact

- This is a new group formed by the Charter and so it was difficult to know what the qualifications people are looking for from the group

The members of RAC agreed that it would be a good idea to start scheduling an extra 15 minutes of group time before first interview. This is key to the process running smoothly.

There needs to be in-service training for all staff people and committee chairs who will be exposed to the new process and everyone comes to the table with different expectations and it would be a great orientation to the process.

There is a difference between the standing committees and the new committees created by the Charter.

People who are experienced with standing boards understand what the purpose is for the new group but people who are new to Town Government do not understand the expectations and time commitments.

Shade Tree Committee has a small number of interviewees and no limit to their membership. Ms. Mills will reach out to Mr. Snow for other applicants' names and set up a schedule.

UPCOMING INTERVIEWS and RAC ASSIGNMENTS:

Ms. Dennis will do Agricultural Commission

Ms. Kruger will do DRB and Water Supply Protection Committee

Mr. Pistrang will do Munson Library

Connie will do Board of Health

Shade Tree Committee will be done by Ms. Kruger (TRY TO SHIFT TO AM)

PUBLIC COMMENTS = NONE

OTHER TOPICS:

Ms. Kruger asked about meeting with Town Council Committee Outreach, Communications, and Appointments (OCA)?

Ms. Kruger would like to bring up the idea of meeting with OCA. The pool of applicants will influence the quality of the committee appointments. Planning board has a huge time commitment and is a hot seat in a very public position. Appointees have to be ok with hearing from people who do not agree with the final decision made by the committee.

Ms. Mills will ask OCA to invite RAC to a meeting (soon) for half an hour. Mr. Pistrang will give a summary of RAC activities and then share out what the struggles have been and how to strive for consistency.

NEXT meeting June 4th – Community Room of Police Station

June 18th – Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Move to adjourn by Mr. Pistrang, seconded by Ms. Kruger. VOTE to Adjourn UNANIMOUS