

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, January 24, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Councilors in attendance: Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Miller, Rooney, Steinberg, Taub

Councilors participating remotely: Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Lopes, Pam, Schoen, Walker

Councilors Absent: None

Staff in attendance: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, IT Director Sean Hannon, Minute Taker Steve Simurda

Others Participating Remotely: DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring, Planning Director Christine Brestrup, Health Director Jennifer Brown, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Treasurer Jennifer LaFountain, Eversource Representatives

When remote participation is used, all votes will be taken by roll call.

Per MGL Chapter 30A Section 20(f), this meeting is being recorded and broadcast by Amherst Media.

President Griesemer called the Town Council meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

3. Hearings

- a. **Echo Fill Access Road – closed**
- b. **46 Rolling Ridge Road – continued to February 7**
- c. **20 Triangle Street – closed**
- d. **Woodside Ave – continue to February 7**
- e. **76 Flat Hills Road – closed**

MOTION: To close the public hearings for Echo Fill Access Road, 20 Triangle Street, and 76 Flat Hills Road, and to continue public hearings for 46 Rolling Ridge and Woodside to February 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Motion by: Hanneke

Seconded by: Devlin Gauthier

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

5. Consent Agenda

The following items were selected because they were considered to be routine and it was reasonable to expect they would pass with no controversy. To remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting, ask that it be removed when the President lists the consent agenda items. The request to remove an item from the consent agenda does not require a second.

MOVED: To move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- **Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4** for the following agenda items:

- 8.a.1. Eversource Pole Petitions at the following locations:
 - a. Echo Hill Access Road
 - c. 20 Triangle Street
 - e. 76 Flat Hills Road
- 8.a.2. Easement at 534 Main Street
- 8.b. African Heritage Reparations Assembly – Request for extension
- 8.d. Draft Testimony re An Act creating a Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority (S.2457 and H.3821)
- 6.a. **Adoption** of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Proclamation
- 6.b. **Adoption** of Black History Month Proclamation
- 6.c. **Adoption** of Lunar New Year/Spring Festival Celebration Proclamation
- 9. **Approval** of Town Manager Appointments:
 - Jones Library Building Committee
 - Elementary School Building Committee
- 11. **Approval** of Minutes:
 - December 20, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
 - January 3, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes
 - January 8, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Four Towns

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: De Angelis

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

6. Resolutions and Proclamations

a. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Proclamation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Proclamation, as presented.

b. Black History Month Proclamation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the Amherst Black History Month Proclamation, as presented.

c. Lunar New Year/Spring Festival Celebration Proclamation

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the Spring Festival/Lunar New Year Celebration Proclamation, as presented.

8. Action Items

a. Public Way

1) Eversource Pole Petitions

a) Echo Hill Access Road

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

MOVED: That the Town Council approve the installation of four new Eversource owned poles along Echo Hill Access Road to access the solar site and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into easements with Eversource to install these four poles.

Motion by: Griesemer
Seconded by: Rooney
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

b) 46 Rolling Ridge Road – Hearing continued to February 7

c) 20 Triangle Street

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

MOVED: To approve the order for pole locations at 20 Triangle Street titled “ORDER FOR POLE LOCATIONS” dated November 16, 2021, as shown on pages 16-18 of the motions sheet, with the added conditions that the Petitioner pulls a street opening permit before proceeding with the work and placement of the pole is field adjusted as needed to minimize trimming impacts to the existing shade trees and damage to existing utilities.

Motion by: Griesemer
Seconded by: Taub
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

d) Woodside Avenue – Hearing continued to February 7

e) 76 Flat Hills Road

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

MOVED: To approve the order for pole locations at 76 Flat Hills Road titled “ORDER FOR POLE LOCATIONS” dated November 30, 2021, as shown on pages 22-24 of the motions sheet, with the added conditions that the Petitioner pulls a street opening permit before proceeding with the work and placement of the pole is field adjusted as needed to minimize trimming impacts to the existing shade trees and damage to existing utilities.

Motion by: Griesemer
Seconded by: Steinberg
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

2) Easement at 534 Main Street

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

MOVED: To approve the easement at 534 Main Street as requested and to delegate to the Town Manager the responsibility to negotiate and finalize the easement language.

Motion by: Griesemer
Seconded by: Hanneke
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

b. African Heritage Reparation Assembly – Request for extension

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

MOVED: To amend the African Heritage Reparation Assembly charge by extending term of appointment to “upon completion of the report” and extending the report deadline to June 1, 2023.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Pam

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

c. Parking Permit Program Revisions – Recommendations

MOVED: To refer the proposed parking permit program modifications to the Town Services and Outreach Committee for a public hearing and recommendations, with review by the Finance Committee, and report to the Town Council by March 7, 2022.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Rooney

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

d. Draft Testimony re: An Act creating a Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority (S.2457 and H.3821)

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

MOVED: To authorize the Town Council President to provide testimony on behalf of the Amherst Town Council at the upcoming hearing on An Act creating a Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority (S.2457 and H.3821).

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Devlin Gauthier

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

e. Reconsideration of Town Council Meeting Format

MOVED: To reconsider the January 3, 2022 Town Council vote:

Effective immediately, to hold all Town Council meetings in the in person meeting format until April 1, 2022.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Bahl-Milne

ROLL CALL VOTE: 11-2 (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, and Walker voted Yes; Hanneke and Steinberg voted No)

If Motion to Reconsider passes, the following motion is on the table:

MOVED: Effective immediately, to hold all Town Council meetings in the in person meeting format until April 1, 2022.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-6 (Bahl-Milne, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller,

and Steinberg voted Yes; De Angelis, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, and Walker voted No)

9. Appointments

a. Town Manager Appointments – Charter Sec. 3.3(c)

1) Jones Library Building Committee

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: In accordance with Charter section 2.11(b), to approve the following Town Manager appointment to the Jones Library Building Committee, as filed with the Town Clerk on January 13, 2022, effective immediately:

- For a term that will continue for the length of the building process:
 - Councilor Anika Lopes

2) Elementary School Building Committee

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: In accordance with Charter section 2.11(b), to approve the following Town Manager appointments to the Elementary School Building Committee, as filed with the Town Clerk on January 13, 2022, effective immediately:

- For a term that will continue for the length of the building process:
 - Councilor Elisha Walker
 - Procurement Officer Simone Cristofori

11. Approval of Minutes

a. December 20, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

b. January 3, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes

c. January 8, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Four Towns

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To approve the following meeting minutes:

- December 20, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
- January 3, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes
- January 8, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Four Towns