

AMHERST FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Meeting of May 13, 2013, 6:00pm
Band Room, Regional Middle School

Attendance:

Andrew Steinberg (Chair), Kay Moran (Vice-Chair), Janice Ratner, Anurag Sharma, Douglas Slaughter, Marylou Theilman, Bob Saul (absent)

Others in Attendance:

Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director; Robert Crouner, Planning Board

Agenda:

Deferred Articles which need either further discussion and/or a vote.

Article 38—Petition—CAN Residential Rental

Continued to be deferred until May 22 until more information is available.

Article 40—Petition—Rental Housing Information

Not Recommended—Vote 6-0-1 Absent

The Article was discussed at a previous meeting with the petitioner in attendance. The Committee did not support the Article, as it has financial implications for the Town, with no way of determining whether the implementation of the process would achieve its goal. In addition, the material and/or similar material is available through other means.

Article 44—Petition—Local Voting Rights for Legal-permanent Resident Non-citizens

No Recommendation—Vote 6-0-1 Absent

The Finance Committee has taken a “No Recommendation” to similar Articles in the past, as the Article has no financial impact on the Town. Steinberg spoke with the petitioner prior to the meeting and the petitioner understood the position of the Finance Committee.

Article 31—Planning Board—Zoning-Mixed Use Buildings—Standards and Conditions

Article 32--Planning Board—Zoning-Mixed Center Dimensions

Article 35—Planning Board—Zoning-Locational Requirements for Non-Conforming Structures in Mixed Use Centers

Recommend—Vote 6-0-1 Absent

Steinberg outlined the three reasons that the Finance Committee has used in the past to support Zoning Articles , and they are as follows:

- a. it potentially would increase revenue
- b. it potentially would reduce the cost (time and money) for staff/administration
- c. it potentially would reduce legal expenses by clarifying language (house-keeping)

The discussion revolved around all three Articles. Some suggested that there is the possibility that the changes would have a positive impact on the tax base, as the building behind Judie’s has provided. It may make property more attractive and draw people to the area, as well as, address the larger issue of housing stock. The general consensus was that of the three reasons stated above, these Articles have the potential to increase revenue.

Article 33—Planning Board—Zoning-Non-Conforming Uses and Structures

Recommend—Vote 6-0-1 Abstain, 1 Absent

This Article attempts to clarify language in Section 9.2 of the Zoning By-Law as it is now in practice. The present language presents problems of interpretation. The new wording strives

for consistency and fairness. The changes have the potential to reduce the cost (time and money) for staff/administration, as well as, to reduce legal expenses by clarifying language (house-keeping).

The one person, who abstained, while supporting the efforts, sees no clear financial impact.

Article 34—Planning Board—District Dimensions

Recommend—Vote 6-0-1 Abstain, 1 Absent

The adding of a footnote to three of the dimensions in the Fraternity Residence District will allow for greater flexibility and may facilitate additional student housing through the Special Permit Process.

Next Meetings:

The Finance Committee will meet on May 15 at which time it will discuss and vote on deferred Articles:

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

Submitted by:

Marylou Theilman, Acting Clerk

Materials used were Distributed at Prior Meetings

Amherst Annual Town Meeting Warrant, May 2013

2013 Planning Board Report to the Annual Town Meeting, Articles 31-35