

**To: Town Council Members**

**From: Pat De Angelis, Chair, Governance, Organization and Legislation (GOL) Committee**

**Date: November 20, 2023**

**Re: Report by the Chair of GOL Committee to the Town Council**

**Summary: November 8, 2023 and November 15, 2023 Meetings**

**Review of the Amherst Black Reparations Committee (ABRC) Charge:** During the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the members of the GOL Committee discussed the Amherst Black Reparations Committee Charge. The focus of the discussion was on legal questions to be shared with KP Law and the possibility of integrating the work of the ABRC into an already existing committee. Suggestions were made to incorporate the work of the ABRC into the Human Rights Commission or the Community Safety and Social Justice Committee. It seemed to some members that including the ABRC into the work of the CSSJC was a natural evolution of CSSJC's work and charge. It was noted that the Council may not have authority to amend the CSSJC charge, since it was established by the Town Manager, but that suggestions from the Council about modifications to the CSSJC or Human Rights Commission charge would be welcomed by members of the GOL. GOL members agreed that the matter would be incorporated into the committee's carryover report.

**Town Manager Goals:** The Town Manager's Goals were discussed at both the November 8<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> meetings. A primary focus of GOL's discussions was on finding a balance between clarifying policy and including a list of specific required actions. In essence, should the Council's performance goals for the Town Manager be broad and/or include specific steps, projects, or concerns council members individually support whether or not they have been decided on by the full Council or should the Town Council rely directly on the Town Manager's ability to set priorities, direct work activities, and allocate staffing and financial resources to meet these goals.

During these discussions GOL members suggested the possibility of requiring the Town Manager to complete an annual mid-year check-in on progress toward accomplishment of the Council Goals and having the Town Manager and the Town Council hold periodic discussions to explore budgetary consequences of goals and possible tradeoffs in terms of costs or cuts. A suggestion that the new Council hold a retreat in 2024 was encouraged by one member of GOL, which would allow the Town Council to dive deeply into an exploration of these issues.

Members agreed that the feedback from the Council on November 20 would help to inform and support the committee's formulation of final recommendations for the Town Manager's 2024 goals.

**Proposed Amendments to Residential Rental Property Bylaw 3.50: (Rental Registration Bylaw):** At the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, GOL members reviewed the Community Resources Committee's proposed changes to Bylaw 3.50 for clarity, consistency, and actionability. At the close of the discussion it was moved and seconded to declare the Rental Registration Bylaw

clear, consistent, and actionable. This bylaw has been reviewed by KP Law and is currently being reviewed by the Finance Committee. It will be presented at Town Council when the Finance Committee review is completed.

**Proclamations:** 2023 Proclamations found to be clear, consistent, and actionable by GOL members at its November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting included: The South Asian Festival of Lights, the Human Rights Day, and the Small Business Saturday proclamations.

**Possible Carryover Items:**

Amherst Black Reparations Committee Charge

Appointment process for Non-Voting Members of the Finance Committee

Street Lights Bylaw

Transportation Commission

Nuisance Property Bylaw

Waste Hauler Bylaw

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**GOL November 29, 2023 and December 13, 2023**

**Town Council December 4, 2023 and December 18, 2023**

**Committee Members:**

Pat DeAngelis, Chair

Lynn Griesemer

Mandi Jo Hanneke

Michele Miller

Jennifer Taub, Vice Chair