

FINCOM
Meeting Minutes – September 21st, 2016

Members Present: Don, Laura, Bruce, Dick, John, Steve, Charles, Heidi
Others: Members of the Conservation Committee and the Harvard Conservation Trust
Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

Don called the meeting to order at 7:09PM.

Other business:

Conservation Commission and Harvard Conservation Trust members presented the proposed purchase of the 45 Sherry Rd. property.

- 45 Sherry Rd. is located in NHESP Priority Habitat for rare and endangered species.
- Its protection will complete a larger, contiguous protected area.
- Heidi provided a summary of CPIC's deliberations and said that it was deemed a highly rated request.
- Purchase by HCT, for \$800,000 is contingent upon \$397,000 LAND Grant approval.
- HCT purchases the property first, then after Trade Lot is subdivided and existing structure is demolished and removed, Conservation Commission purchases remaining property from HCT.
- Cost to town (\$685,000) would be covered by \$397,000 LAND Grant, \$100,000 from Community Preservation Funds, \$100,000 from the capital fund and \$88,000 from HCT contributions.

Minutes: The Minutes of the June 29th meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Commentary: None.

Budget Letter for FY18 Cycle:

- Addressed various issues with the FY18 Budget Letter
- Guideline 1: Remove "and appropriate 2% COLA"
- Guideline 5: Change "revenues you get" to "revenues you received"
- Guideline 5: Change "what the money is intended to be used" to "what the money was used"
- These changes were unanimously approved

Town Administrator Report:

- Tim discussed some of the warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting, including the article that will revalidate the appropriation for equipment purchases.
- Audit of Fire and Ambulance due Nov 10th, with presentation to follow at the BOS meeting on Nov 15th.
- Tim continued his discussion of the state budget situation. The uncertainty caused by the election will delay budgetary decisions until late November or December.
- Health insurance premiums for current and retired Harvard employees will increase by 13% on May 1st.

Finance Director Report: None.

Liaison Reports:

- Hildreth Building Committee will meet October 3rd
- School Committee reports that budget surplus will go to free cash. School committee has hired a school business manager to handle finances while the search for a Finance Director continues.

- CPIC has requested capital submissions be turned in by September 29th.

Other Business:

- Approved unanimously payment for membership in the Association of Town Finance Committees

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 5th at 7PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Oliver, Secretary