

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

7:00 PM

Town Hall – Selectmen’s Meeting Room

Members present: Brian Boyle, Ann Hurd, Ted Kirchner, Craig Lauer, and Joe Myerson

Members absent: Connie Benjamin¹

Call to order: Chairman Brian Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The entire meeting can be viewed by going to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OKh4DrU5XI&index=1&list=PLu94OVLkDQ_IpPMhLGauvNYNteSk7kY2l

Agenda Item #1: Vote on officers for FY19

- Chair: Brian Boyle (nominated by Ted Kirchner, seconded by Ann Hurd), voted unanimously.
- Vice Chair: Connie Benjamin (nominated by Ted Kirchner, seconded by Joe Myerson), voted unanimously.
- Secretary: Joe Myerson (nominated by Ted Kirchner, seconded by Craig Lauer), voted 4-0 with one abstention (Joe Myerson).

Agenda Item #2: Assign liaisons for FY19-FY20

Using a list of major budget categories submitted by Brian Boyle, those present assigned various liaisons, whose functions would be to contact various department heads and committee chairs before the budgeting process begins in earnest. The intention of these contacts is to get a sense of any changes in proposed budgets before Advisory deliberates on individual budgets.

Here are the initial liaison assignments. Since Connie Benjamin was not present at the meeting, her assignments are subject to her approval:

General Government

Town Hall Departments – Brian Boyle

Board of Assessors – Brian Boyle

Planning Board – Brian Boyle

Conservation Commission – Joe Myerson & Connie Benjamin

¹ Although Connie was not able to attend the meeting, the rest of the Advisory Committee elected her to be Vice-Chair and appointed her as liaison to certain departments based on our belief that her role in those jobs would benefit Advisory and the town. Because Connie was not present, those appointments were made with the understanding that we would completely understand her decision if she declines to accept.

Public Safety

Police and Public Safety Building – Ann Hurd & Connie Benjamin (or Joe Myerson)
Fire & Ambulance – Ted Kirchner & Craig Lauer

Education (includes Nashoba and Minuteman)

Brian Boyle & Ted Kirchner

Public Works (includes DPW, Public Ways Safety Committee and Town Roads Strategic Planning Committee)

Ann Hurd & Ted Kirchner

Human Services

Council on Aging – Brian Boyle

Culture & Recreation (includes Library and Parks & Recreation Committee)

Craig Lauer & Joe Myerson

Debt Service, Employee Benefits & Other Insurance

Brian Boyle

Agenda Item #3: Discuss May 2018 Annual Town Meeting and opportunities for improvement

Discussion focused on a draft document submitted by Ted Kirchner entitled “Meeting Aim,” which called for a separate meeting, possibly in the training room of the Public Safety Building, which would be devoted exclusively to chart ideas about the mechanics of the budgetary review process.

Members would also chart ideas on how to improve Advisory’s work product, where the committee’s work product is defined with reference to the following objective: “So that we can add to the value received by our residents for the tax dollars they contribute.”

After the working session, which Kirchner volunteered to facilitate, the Advisory chairman would distill the essence of the ideas for review by the rest of the committee.

No formal vote was called for, but all present agreed that such a meeting would help improve the budget-review process.

The committee also reviewed a document from the July 19, 2017 meeting outlining the functions of liaisons. Members agreed that the document could have “evergreen” status.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. on a motion made by Joe Myerson and seconded by Craig Lauer.

Approved by the Advisory Committee

