

Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Present: Myerson, Boyle, Kirchner, Lauer, Hurd (via phone)

Absent: Benjamin

Site: Houghton Bldg.

7:01 p.m. Meeting called to order.

Also present are Town Planner Erica Uriarte and board member Mark Sprague.

Board of Appeals—account 176

The board's budget request of \$200 remains unchanged for the third consecutive year.

Advisory Action: Approved unanimously (Lauer, Myerson)

Planning Board—account 175

The board's total budget request of \$64,265 reflects slight reductions in advertising and supplies, while dues, meetings and in-state travel show slight increases. The non-salary portion of the Planning Board's budget request shows a slight decrease of \$700.

Chairman Boyle asked about the cost of "Magic" meetings. Uriarte decoded the acronym for the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and said the group's meetings are planning-related. Planners work together on regional issues, the council created a stormwater partnership, and the sessions provide her with networking opportunities.

Kirchner asked her if there was any overlap between the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. She said there was no such overlap, adding, "At the end of the day, climate change is happening and we have to start to plan for it."

Advisory Action: Unanimous approval (Lauer, Kirchner)

Additional Discussion:

Advisory members questioned Sprague and Uriarte on various bylaw revisions that will appear on the warrant at the Annual Town Meeting.

They explained that most of the bylaw changes are geared to making zoning easier for businesses, such as allowing more than one building on a single lot. "We want to give it a village feel, rather than strip malls," said Sprague.

The board is looking to amend zoning district boundaries to match parcel boundaries. "If we want to make something a business, let's make it a business," he added.

Other articles would update the stormwater and common-driveway bylaws, while another would create a bylaw for temporary political signs, which could be erected 45 days before an election and require they be removed with ten days after an election.

7:25 p.m. Management Information Services (MIS)—account 155

The MIS Department's budget request of \$58,291 is roughly ten percent less than last year.

Advisory Action: Approved unanimously. (Myerson, Kirchner)

7:35 p.m. Council on Aging—account 541

Council on Aging (COA) Director Sheila Chmielowski and Chair Panny Gerkin attended the meeting to review the COA's initial budget request of \$95,988.55, an increase of 11% over last year.

Chairman Boyle asked about the increases to salaries, and Gerkin said this line included a step increase and COLA for the director, as well as an increase of hourly wages for the outreach coordinator and program coordinator from eight to 12 hours a week. The extra hours would allow the coordinator to work at night when needed, she said.

Queried about the COA's goals for next year, Gerkin and Chmielowski said the council was seeking more tax relief for senior citizens, as well as the possibility of having a building dedicated as a senior center.

Advisory action: None.

8:20 p.m. Meeting adjourns by unanimous vote