

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

April 16, 2009

Present: Chairman Elaine Kelly
Janice Hight
Rick Nieber
Dan McInnis
Lynne Winter
Bob D'Amico

Also Present: Town Administrator John W. Coderre
Town Planner Kathy Joubert
Bob Kimball (Housing Trust)
John Campbell (CPC)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Approval of minutes

The Committee passed over approval of minutes.

Departmental Budget Presentations

- Kathy Joubert reviewed the difference between the Housing Authority, Housing Partnership Trust, and Affordable Housing Corporation. She reviewed the background and purpose of Article 36.
- Housing Partnership Trust studies the need for affordable housing in Northborough; the Affordable Housing Corporation is the Agency that builds and purchases affordable housing.
- The Committee expressed its concern about recommending the transfer of funding to a third party Agency that is not directly accountable to any Town Board or Town Meeting. The Committee requested of Bob Kimball that some mechanism be put in place to report back to the Board of Selectmen and Financial Boards how the funding is being used. Wherever and whenever possible, opportunities for public input into expenditure options should be incorporated into the Affordable Housing Corporation process. These suggestions were made by the Appropriations Committee to try and attempt to address public concerns about transparency. The need to have members of the Affordable Housing Corporation to be bonded was also discussed. Lastly, the Committee suggested that the AHC post its Agendas and minutes and open their meetings to public input similar to the Open Meeting Law.

Continue approval and review of Town Meeting Warrant Articles

- Article 36 – Lynne moved to recommend approval; Dan seconded; 4 yes, 1 abstention, Chair did not vote.

- Article 37 – Janice moved to approve; Dan seconded; 3 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention, Chair did not vote.
- Article 38 – Janice moved to approve; Dan seconded; unanimous.
- Article 43 – Janice moved to approve; Lynne seconded; 4 yes, 1 abstention.
- Article 23 – No recommendation by consensus due to lack of information.
- Article 25 – Janice moved to approve; Bob seconded; unanimous.

Draft Appropriations Report

- The Committee discussed the draft report in general. It was agreed to get the finished report to the Town Administrator Tuesday if possible.

Other Business

- Janice moved to reappoint Chriss Kowal to the Financial Planning Committee as the Appropriations Committee's designee; Dan seconded; approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

- April 27th, Room B122, Algonquin High School, 6:45 p.m. prior to Town Meeting.

Adjournment

9:25 p.m. - Janice Hight moved to adjourn; Rick Nieber seconded; all members voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Coderre

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