

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024
7:00PM**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee present were: Co-Chair Joachim, Co-Chair Poch, Andrew Bettinelli, Colin Wang, Maura Carty, Susan Berry and Ryan Lynch.

ABSENT

Mike Ferrari and Henry Sorett

ITEM 1: Welcome and Member Roll Call

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02PM, roll-called members, and declared a quorum present. He read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs: this meeting is devoted to voting on remaining warrant articles and discussing the FinCom report.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: FY25 Budget Discussion

Article 26: LSRHS Lighting Control Replacement

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Co-Chair Poch, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 26 in the amount of \$144,580 to be appropriated from free cash. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 27: LSRHS Exterior Stairwell Replacement

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Poch and seconded by Ms. Berry, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 27 in the amount of \$130,965 to be appropriated from free cash. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 28: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - Goodnow Library

Town Manager Sheehan provided background on Article 28. The request for the EV charging stations came in as a capital request last August. The \$80K request was denied as the solar revolving account was considered an appropriate funding source. The Select Board subsequently decided to include the request as a warrant article.

Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, added that the Town was originally on track to install two charging stations, when it was notified that the “make ready” cost had doubled. However, as a result of Eversource subsequently increasing its incentive, the project became viable.

Ms. Duran stated that surrounding towns charge the customer for the service, and a nominal user fee is being considered. At the request of Co-Chair Joachim, she will provide the exact details of the cost per kilowatt hour to the Town.

Discussion ensued including the following highlights:

- The FinCom’s role is not to decide on policy but to analyze the financial implications of the project.
- The solar revolving fund is the appropriate way to fund the project. Its use is more limited than Free Cash.
- Concern was expressed about the integrity of the process and about precedent-setting.

The Committee agreed to continue consideration of the project at its next meeting with additional information from Ms. Duran on the ongoing costs.

Article 29: Amend General Bylaw Art. XV Building Permit Fees

Article 30: Amend General Bylaw XXII Conservation Commission Fees

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Poch and seconded by Mr. Lynch, it was voted to recommend approval of Articles 29 and 30. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-A, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 6-0-1.

Article 33: Amend Zoning Bylaw Art IX Insert Section 4700C Multi-Family Overlay District (MBTA Zoning)

Article 34: Amend Zoning Bylaw Art IX Insert Section 5600 Inclusion of Affordable Housing

Discussion including the following highlights:

- While zoning is in the purview of the Planning Board, voting “no” could have negative financial consequences with respect to state funding.
- While the risk of financial impact from increased development is relatively low, there is no sure way to predict.
- Insofar as the Town has until the end of the year to come into compliance, if the Town votes the article down, a special town meeting could be called to address alternative means of compliance.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to delay voting until the next meeting. Ms. Berry asked that feedback be given by the Planning Board on its advice to the FinCom whether or not to take a vote on this article. Ms. Carty will reach out to the Board.

Article 35: Community Preservation Act Fund: Wayside Inn Road Bridge Reconstruction

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Co-Chair Poch, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 35 in the amount of \$400,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-A, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 6-0-1.

Article 36: Community Preservation Act Fund: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 3

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Mr. Wang, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 36 in the amount of \$600,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 37: Community Preservation Act Fund: Sudbury Housing Authority Allocation

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Poch and seconded by Mr. Wang, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 37 in the amount of \$450,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 38: Community Preservation Act Fund: Sudbury Housing Trust Allocation

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Wang, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 38 in the amount of \$380,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 39: Community Preservation Act Fund: Remediation of the Water Chestnuts from the Hop Brook Pond System

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Poch and seconded by Ms. Berry, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 39 in the amount of \$56,221. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 40: Community Preservation Act Fund: Parkinson Field Driveway Design

Discussion including the following highlights:

- Legitimate concern by Ti-Sales users of field parking on their property because town driveway is very narrow and in poor condition; signage needed to deter parking.
- Clear situation a Town resource is creating a hindrance for business.
- CPC cautious about spending money and reclaims unspent funds after completion of project for fiscal responsibility and reassignment to other projects.
- Survey will determine need for environmental permitting.

Co-Chair Poch moved, and Mr. Wang seconded, the motion to recommend approval of Article 40 in the amount of \$100,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-N, Mr. Bettinelli-N, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-N, Ms. Berry-N, Mr. Lynch-N and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion failed 2-5.

Article 41: Community Preservation Act Fund: Community Garden

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Ms. Berry, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 41 in the amount of \$40,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 42: Community Preservation Act Fund: Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO) Membership Fee

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Co-Chair Poch, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 42 in the amount of \$3,000. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 43: Community Preservation Act Fund: Return of Unspent Funds to CPC**Article 44: Community Preservation Act Fund: General Budget and Appropriation**

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Poch and seconded by Mr. Wang, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 43 in the amount of \$28,051 and Article 44 in the amount of \$1,105,143. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Keohane then noted a discrepancy in the number quoted above.

Vote to Rescind

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Poch and seconded by Ms. Berry, it was voted to rescind the vote on Articles 43 and 44. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 43: Community Preservation Act Fund: Return of Unspent Funds to CPC**Article 44: Community Preservation Act Fund: General Budget and Appropriation**

Upon motion duly made by Co-Chair Poch and seconded by Ms. Berry, it was voted to recommend approval of Article 43 in the amount of \$28,051 and Article 44 in the amount of \$864,693. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y and Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion passed 7-0.

Article 45: Amend General Bylaws Chapter 20 by adding “Disability”

Ms. Berry recused herself from the discussion.

The members decided not to take a position on this article.

Discussion of FinCom Report

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the draft of the FinCom Report, including the remaining edits to be made and attachments to be added. The draft needs to be approved at the April 1st meeting for submission for printing. Members will submit their sections to Co-Chair Joachim by Friday for inclusion in the report. He will then distribute the consolidated document for a final review at the meeting on April 1st. Mr. Keohane will update the relevant charts.

ITEM 4: General business

- **Transfers and other business**
There were none.
- **Liaison reports**
- There were none
- **Calendar**
April 1 – regular meeting.
- **Approval of Minutes**
There were none.

ITEM 5: Public comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 6: Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Co-Chair Poch, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Ms. Berry-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Wang-Y, Ms. Carty-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Co-Chair Poch-Y. Motion carries 7-0, unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford, Recording Secretary