

TOWN OF PEMBROKE
APPROVED
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
25 AUGUST 2021

Linda Peterson, Chairperson opened the meeting of the Advisory Committee, in person at Town Hall at 7:00PM on 25 August 2021.

Also present were: Stephen Walsh, Tim Landy, Sandra Beaton, Robert Kenney, John Scholl, Kristi Cullinane and Matthew Rushing

Guests: Liz Benotti, Advisory Member Candidate

Linda opened the meeting and asked the members to identify themselves. She also noted that Matthew Norton resigned his Advisory seat and thanked him for his membership and dedication.

Linda welcomed Liz Benotti and asked why she is interested in joining Advisory and what would be her strong suit for this committee. Liz said she is recently retired and would like to take her experience in financial services and contribute to the community. She has volunteered as a poll worker. She worked for the Massachusetts Division of Banks for 17 years where she was responsible for review of financial institutions ensuring they met the regulatory requirements. Sandy asked Liz what area Pembroke can improve. Liz said the Pembroke budget is 60M and she has a lot of expenditures that need to be dispersed, so its understanding the process. Many residents are under the poverty level and provide services to people that really need them. There is a large aging population in Pembroke and not enough services nor is it affordable or businesses or restaurants to keep younger people in town. Linda noted that things have changed with the Town Manager Act. He is responsible for setting the budget with department heads and then brings that information to Advisory. Any suggestions can go through the Town Manager. Sandy asked Liz what she likes to do in Pembroke. Liz said she enjoys walking, gardening and frequenting local restaurants. She also enjoyed the Arts Festival. Linda said Pembroke has been working to attract more industrial business as a town but more work needs to be done.

Upon motion by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Tim Landy to accept the appointment of Liz Benotti as Advisory Committee member serving a three year term.

VOTED¹: To accept the appointment of Liz Benotti as Advisory Committee member, serving a three year term. Role Call vote: Stephen Walsh YES, John Scholl YES, Sandra Beaton YES, Robert Kenney YES, Tim Landy YES, Kristi Cullinane YES, Matthew Rushing YES.

Linda explained Advisory will notify the Select Board's office of Liz's appointment and schedule her confirmation at their next meeting. She must then be sworn in by the Town Clerk. Liz asked how the committee divides workload. Linda explained the process.

Linda would like to continue as chairperson unless anyone else was interested. Stephen Walsh nominated Linda Peterson and Linda accepted.

Upon motion by Stephen Walsh and 2nd by Robert Kenney to accept the appointment of Linda Peterson as Chairperson, Advisory Committee.

VOTED²: To accept the appointment of Linda Peterson as Chairperson, Advisory Committee. Role Call vote: Stephen Walsh YES, John Scholl YES, Sandra Beaton YES, Robert Kenney YES, Tim Landy YES, Kristi Cullinane YES, Matthew Rushing YES.

Linda nominated Stephen Walsh as Clerk unless anyone else is interested. Stephen Walsh accepted.

Upon motion by Tim Landy and 2nd by John Scholl to accept the appointment of Stephen Walsh as Clerk, Advisory Committee.

VOTED³: To accept the appointment of Stephen Walsh as Clerk, Advisory Committee. Role Call vote: Stephen Walsh YES, John Scholl YES, Sandra Beaton YES, Robert Kenney YES, Tim Landy YES, Kristi Cullinane YES, Matthew Rushing YES.

Linda asked the committee about future meeting dates. The Zoning Board and Planning Board are scheduled to meet on the opposite Wednesday nights from the Select Board. Advisory can return to Monday nights and utilize the meeting room on the 2nd floor. The Town Hall is also open to the public on Monday nights. The committee agreed Monday night would be fine but suggested a 7:00pm start time.

Upon motion moved by Tim Landy and 2nd by Sandra Beaton to approve the meeting minutes of June 22, 2021

VOTED⁴: To accept the meeting minutes of June 22, 2021. Stephen Walsh, John Scholl, Sandra Beaton, Robert Kenney, Tim Landy, Kristi Cullinane, Matthew Rushing supported the motion.

Matt spoke to the topic of liaisons for Advisory members to town departments given what we do with the budget. Linda noted this was tried in the past and was not well received; some felt Advisory was looking over their shoulder and prying to what was going on. Linda did invite Tracy Marino tonight but she's on vacation. She also invited Steve Dodge, Town Moderator. She said one thing Advisory should do is make it clear in the bylaws regarding the appointment of members. John asked what would be the role of the liaison. Matt said open lines of communication. He said the Fire Department comes to mind. He had a good conversation with the Fire Chief and saw things first hand. Linda said we could invite Department Heads in to meet with Advisory. Matt said that's when you may not get good responses, not seeing this first hand. Sandy said she feels that way about the schools. It would be one person staying abreast of a process of how we can do this. Matt said he would agree to setting up a process and how Advisory would do that. Kristi said it's all in how we present this as a partnership with ongoing communication to become comfortable with each other. Tim said he likes the idea of proactive engagement. Steve mentioned the Ambulance Fund suggesting changing wording in by law; they're restricted to how they can use these funds. Linda said maybe the departments would include Police, Fire, DPW and Schools. Tim suggested prioritizing. Matt suggested getting a list of departments for the next meeting.

Steve said he was interested in volunteering for the Public Safety Building Committee. Tim said they're still looking for volunteers. Matt said they just posted the application on the website. No date as to when it will start. Linda said we should have an idea of what's going on with the Public Safety Building Committee at our next meeting.

The committee reviewed the draft Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Linda said most are routine articles. School Departments was a stabilization fund.

- Sandy asked about Article 7 funds for the Mattakeesett Street Playground. Is this separate from the assessment/audit they're asking for or two separate things. Matt said he was not sure, they have funding for equipment and poured rubber; waiting for town landing so they can do both together. We can ask.
- Tim asked about Article 7B \$75,000 for schools athletic fields; what are we buying.
- Article 7C \$15,000 for the Schools toward the Hatch Building. Linda said the School Department is in charge of the Hatch Building. Sandy said she sent Erin Obey and email.
- Linda said she understood that Article 8 "Purchase of land adjacent to town property cemetery" is not buildable.
- Sandy asked how Advisory handles recommendations for Citizen's Petitions. Linda said the committee takes a vote and position on every Article.

Linda said she would like to provide clarity of the Advisory By-Law in reference to Advisory member appointment prior to the spring town meeting.

The Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles must be signed by the Select Board on October 6th. The Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

The next two meetings of Advisory are scheduled for Monday, September 20, 2021 and Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00pm, in person at Town Hall 2nd floor conference room.

Advisory adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen Walsh, Clerk