



**TOWN OF NAHANT
Advisory and Finance Committee**

Members

Robert Vanderslice, Co-Chair
John Fulghum, Co-Chair
Barbara Beatty
DeWitt Brown
Jeff Lewis
Dana Sheehan
Julie Tarmy
Judy Zahora

Tuesday March 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Beatty, Brown, Lewis, Fulghum, Tarmy, Vanderslice, Zahora, Sheehan (joined late)

Members Absent: none

Others Present: A. Barletta, J. Antrim, A. Antrim, C. Liscio, K. Marden, M. Capano, JS Bianchi, D. Liscio, Susan H., Marcia

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Citizen Petition – Castle Road/Lowlands Drainage – Art 37

Christine Liscio presented her PowerPoint addressing the concerns with flooding in the Castle Road/Lowlands area.

- Town-wide safety issue
- 2018 Nahant Road closed for pumping
- Longer road closed, longer no access to emergency aide
- Town critical facilities are also at Lowlands
- Natural flow to Lynn Harbor
- 20" gravity pipe was in place to drain
- All Castle Road drains are connected
- 29 Castle Road homeowner blocked 20" pipe with sea wall
- After 1978, plan was drawn up but never implemented
- 1995 Army Corp study states most efficient to go from lowlands to Lynn Harbor
- DPW recently cleared ditches on Ward Road
- Town officials acknowledge no viable drainage at Lowlands
- Gas & water main breaks frequent in this area due to alleged standing water in underground drain
- When storm water is pumped out, there is still standing water because the underground drain is blocked, and the water has no place to go.
- Numerous resident losses including insurance coverage/rates, property damage, many are often rejected for competitive rates due to current condition
- Looking for permanent solution with a direct route to Lynn Harbor. We believe in science. This is not just about a drainage situation; it is a beautiful neighborhood.

FinCom recognizes these issues. Cmte concerns:

- Calling for \$100K with no identity of source or basis of cost
- Too restrictive the way it is written



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- 29 Castle Rd not mentioned in Petition

Christine was told the town had another plan that was acceptable. Bottom line, a solution is needed. This has been going on for 40 years. Christine is happy to work with whoever to make verbiage work.

Barletta: Best option to leave as is. Changes can be made by BOS as separate article or can be done at Town Meeting. Town applied for CPC grant, but did not meet criteria. BOS is supportive of about \$200k expenditure for this issue. The hurdle here is that the existing 20" (now blocked) drain is grandfathered. New permitted outfalls from DEP are hart to get. Permitting nightmare. If after three weeks, BOS does not present a separate article, the citizen's petition will stand as is.

Planning board member, Bianchi, states that planning board is applying for CPC grant to address this flooding. Barletta will connect with the planning board before they get too far with their CPC app.

The intent of this meeting was to hear information from the petitioner, but not to work on plans for a solution.

TOWN GOVERNMENT – COVID Related

Public Health

- Previously under different categories, now consolidated in one
- What we historically spent vs what is spent now
- Was \$23,688/quarterly, now \$117,500/quarterly
- Wages are hourly, the numbers shown in budget are a cap
- Still no new funding
- Need to prioritize public health due to COVID
- Spent \$310K from March – December 2020 on remote access equipment, PPE, wages

Pension, OPEB is not usually fully funded in most communities. We have been sticking to our promise to put \$25k annually to OPEB – this helps secure bond rating.

Vac/Sick accrual is in good shape.

Retirement \$ comes from Essex Regional Retirement; Unemployment is level funded; health insurance is an estimate -can fluctuate with hiring/retiring, staffing changes.

Debt No new borrowing done last year other than sewer, paid down about \$1 million last year.

Borrowing article this year for \$800K. Details are available in the FinCom notebooks.

Brief discussion of ways to retire high cost debt. Lewis, Alison Nieto and Peter Frasier (financial advisor) should get together and take a look.



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Motion made to accept February 9th minutes by Zahora, seconded by Beatty. 7 ayes, 1 abstain – Sheehan was absent from this meeting.

Motion made to accept February 16th minutes by Brown, seconded by Zahora. 7 ayes, 1 abstain – Tarmy was absent from this meeting.

General discussion on Google docs repository for documents. Best way for committee to share documents. Talked about order of Articles in Warrant. May rearrange some. Art 30 may be removed because it needs to go through Planning Board process. Went through articles to be sure all have been assigned to committee member.

Need to get CPC articles. Book needs to be to Printer by April 9th. Need responses by March 23rd. Next meeting, we will hope to have Assessor, Cultural and Recreation, and Library. Will tentatively schedule second meeting for March 25th.

Public Forum: No comments

Motion to adjourn by Zahora, seconded by Beatty. Unanimous ayes.
Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.