

Town of Hudson Finance Committee
Town Hall
78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Minutes of the Meeting of April 8, 2020

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom, <https://bdev.zoom.us/j/247317042>. The meeting was publicly posted. It was held in conformance with the Governor's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, suspending provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, which required meetings to be held in a public location.

Members present: Rob Clark, chair; Guy Beaudette; Sam Calandra; Andy Horvitz; Andy Massa, Shawn Sadowski; and Steven C. Sharek, vice-chair.

Also present: Tom Moses, Executive Assistant; Tricia Fay, Finance Director; Tracey Gustafson, President, Board of Directors, Addictions Referral Center; Douglas Schaeffer, Addictions Referral Center; Brian White, member of Green Hudson; Jack Hunter, Director of Planning & Community Development; Kristine Johnson, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development; Bob D'Amelio, member, Hudson Planning Board; Shekhar and Arti Mehta, owners of 68 Tower Street; Duncan Chapman, broker for 68 Tower Street; Lisa Kilpatrick, realtor, Keller Williams; and Lia Anastasopoulos, 33 Wilkins Street, Hudson.

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

7:06 p.m.

Minutes of March 24, 2020

Mr. Clark pointed out that the Minutes of March 24, 2020, should indicate that the Committee's 4-3 vote in favor of Article 38 actually would mean there would be "No Recommendation" from the Finance Committee. Following that comment, Mr. Sadowski made a motion to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

7:07 p.m.

Budget Review – School Department

The chair asked whether anyone from the Hudson School Department was present on the videoconference. No one was. Mr. Clark said he would find out why the Superintendent or School Committee did not appear.

The Committee then began reviewing the three Town Meeting Articles submitted by petitioners:

ARTICLE 38 – Petitioned Article: Addiction Referral Center

Tracey Gustafson, President of the Board of Directors of the Addiction Referral Center in Marlborough, spoke on behalf of the organization's request for \$20,000. Douglas Schaeffer of Hudson also spoke in favor. Mr. Beaudette noted that the organization seeks funding from Hudson Town Meeting each year, but never appears before the Finance Committee or at Town Meeting. It was noted \$20,000 is double the size of the organization's usual request. Mr. Moses stated that the increase would be funded by money received through Cannabis operations in the Town. In answer to a question, Ms. Gustafson said the Addiction Referral Center also seeks annual funding from the City of Marlborough.

At the conclusion of discussion, Mr. Beaudette made a motion to reconsider the Committee's previous vote on the Article. (On March 24, 2020, the Finance Committee had voted 4-3 in favor, resulting in "No Recommendation".) Mr. Beaudette's motion was seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

Mr. Horvitz then made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Sadowski. Vote in favor 7-0.

Action on Article 38 ended at approximately 7:20 p.m.

ARTICLE 40 – Petitioned Article: Water Quality Monitoring for Assabet River

The Committee heard from Brian White of Green Hudson, a local environmental group. He said the group was seeking \$3,680 from the Town to help eradicate the water chestnut, an invasive aquatic plant, from a portion of the Assabet River in Hudson.

Mr. Sharek made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 5-2, with Mr. Beaudette and Mr. Sadowski opposed.

Action on Article 40 ended at 7:36 p.m.

ARTICLE 39 – Petitioned Article: Amend Zoning Map: Adaptive Re-Use Overlay District – 68 Tower Street

On March 24, 2020, the Finance Committee voted 7-0 to postpone a vote on this Article until after the Planning Board took action. Mr. Hunter, Director of Planning & Community Development, began by this discussion by stating that the Planning Board had not yet taken a vote but planned to do so after a public hearing now scheduled for June 2, 2020.

Shekhar and Arti Mehta, the owners of 68 Tower Street, spoke in favor of the Article. Duncan Chapman, broker for 68 Tower Street, also spoke in favor.

Several Finance Committee members said they needed more information, including a vote by the Planning Board, before taking a position. Mr. Clark said Town Meeting has been postponed until June 22, 2020. He said the Finance Committee could wait until the Planning Board took action, and still take a vote prior to Town Meeting.

No motions were made and no votes were taken. Discussion on Article 39 ended at 8:12 p.m.

School Department. Mr. Clark again asked whether anyone from the Hudson School Department was present at the videoconference. No one responded. The chair said he would attempt to reschedule a meeting with Hudson Public Schools. Mr. Beaudette stated that earlier this week the Board of Selectmen endorsed a school budget of just over \$40 million and the Finance Committee could take action now if it wanted. However, there was a general consensus among Committee members not to act until after meeting with the School Department.

8:20 p.m.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Mr. Sadowski made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Horvitz. Vote in favor 7-0.

Minutes prepared by Steven C. Sharek