

Cohasset Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Virtual Meeting-Zoom Video Call
7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 20(b), following Governor Baker's declaration of a state of emergency in the Commonwealth arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Advisory Committee will meet virtually utilizing remote technology. **All votes will be taken by a Roll-Call Vote.**

Documents Received: Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 for 2022 Annual Town Meeting; Draft Minutes for Advisory Committee Meeting held on 3/23/22.

This meeting was recorded. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Robert Hillman.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Adam Amann, Jeanne Astino, Michael Barclay, Fran Collins, Robert Hillman, J. Patrick Kennedy and Mark Maggi.

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Mary McGoldrick and Meg Wheeler

Guests: Chris Senior, Town Manager; Don Piatt, Director of Finance.

1. Brief Highlight of Plan for Joint Meeting with Select Board on 3/31/22

Chair Robert Hillman led a short discussion of the plan for the Joint Meeting with the Select Board to be held on 3/31/22.

2. Discussion and Recommendation Votes on Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting

Chair Robert Hillman and Town Manager Chris Senior led a walk-through of the state of the planned Warrant Articles for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

- Article 1 – no vote needed by the Adv. Comm.
- Article 2 – no vote needed by the Adv. Comm.
- Article 3 – no vote needed by the Adv. Comm.
- Article 4 (2023 Operating Budget) – not ready for a vote by the Adv. Comm. due to the School Department 2023 budget not having been finalized or presented to the Select Board or Adv. Comm.
- Article 5 (unpaid bills from prior years) – Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 5 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Mike Barclay seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE, except Rob Hillman who abstained due to a possible conflict of interest on item (6-0-1).
- Article 6 (supplemental appropriation for FY22 to Cohasset 143TV) -- Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 6 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to

Town Meeting; Fran Collins seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE (7-0-0).

- Article 7 (transfer of funds to stabilization accounts) -- Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 7 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Mike Barclay seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE (7-0-0).
- Article 8 (Capital Budget items) – Mike Barclay as the liaison to the Capital Budget Committee provided an update on the status of project review and approval by the CBC; No Vote was taken by the Adv. Comm. pending further review and recommendation by the CBC.
- Article 9 (revolving funds) -- Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 9 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Mike Barclay seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE (7-0-0).
- Article 10 (annual spending limits) -- Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 10 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Mike Barclay seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE (7-0-0).
- Article 11 (one-time cost allocation) -- Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 11 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Mike Barclay seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE (7-0-0).
- Article 12 (MGL c. 91 liability indemnification for waterfront work) -- Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 12 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Fran Collins seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE (7-0-0).
- Article 13 (annual real estate tax exemptions) -- Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 13 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Adam Amann seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE, except Jeanne Astino who abstained (6-0-1).
- Article 14 (Community Preservation Act items) – Chris Senior presented the final list of items. Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 14 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Mike Barclay seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE, except Adam Amann who abstained (6-0-1).
- Article 15 (Town Hall Building Comm. request to allocate \$200k of previously-approved funds to construction manager-at-risk) -- Jeanne Astino moved to recommend approval of Article 15 in the form presented in the Draft Warrant dated 3/30/22 to Town Meeting; Mike Barclay seconded the motion; On a Roll Call Vote, all Adv. Comm. members voted AYE (7-0-0).
- Article 16 (transfer of properties to Affordable Housing Trust) – no Vote needed as it was previously voted to recommend by the Adv. Comm.
- Article 17 (Alternative Energy Comm. microgrid) – questions were posed by Adv. Comm. members about warrant article language, source of funds, capital budget impacts, and status of AEC consideration of these issues. No Vote was taken by the Adv. Comm.
- Article 18 (Water Dep’t GAC filter to address PFAS) -- questions were posed by Adv. Comm. members about the capital costs of this project, need, and other issues. No Vote was taken by the Adv. Comm.
- Articles 20 & 22 (remote participation for Town Meeting) – the Adv. Comm. already voted to recommend Article 20 to Town Meeting (the Select Board-sponsored Article); Citizens Petition Article 22 was not voted by the Adv. Comm., and likely will be deferred to Town Meeting if it is not indefinitely postponed on Town Meeting floor.

3. Remote Participation for Town Meeting Warrant Article

Chair Hillman introduced Corey Evans, Vice-Chair and Jean Healey-Dippold, Clerk of the Select Board, who presented the Select Board's intended warrant article for remote participation at Town Meetings. Approval of remote participation would require adoption by the Mass. Legislature, and there was a discussion of the general benefits of increased opportunities for participation in Town Meetings. Questions by Advisory Committee members were responded to. Fran Collins expressed concern that a remote or remote/hybrid meeting would be detrimental to the character and nature of Town Meeting.

- Meg Wheeler moved to recommend the Remote Participation for Town Meeting warrant article to Town Meeting; Mark Maggi seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE, except Fran Collins who vote NAY (7-1-0).

4. Next Meeting & Other Business

The Adv. Comm. will be having a Joint Meeting with the Select Board on 3/31/22 to have the School Department's 2023 Budget presented to the Select Board and Advisory Committee.

Draft meeting minutes for the March 23, 2022 Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed.

- Mike Barclay moved to recommend the 3/23/22 draft meeting minutes for approval; Jeanne Astino seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present members voted AYE, except Adam Amann who abstained (6-0-1).

Motion to Adjourn by Jeanne Astino, seconded by Mike Barclay, and all present members voted Aye (7-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.