

FINCOM  
Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2016

Members Present: Don, Steve, Laura, Bruce, John  
Not Present: Rudy, Alice, Heidi  
Others: Tim, Lorraine, Wyona Lynch-McWhite and Doug Thornton from Park & Rec.  
Location: Hapgood Room, Old Library

Don called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the January 13 meeting were unanimously approved with one clarification.

**Trusts Review for funds available for FY17:** Not available. Alice was to develop.

**Warrant Articles Review:** Tim distributed the list to date of all money articles received by the deadline. He noted several will likely be revised as additional information becomes available.

**Town Administrator Report:** Tim shared the School Committee's answers to our questions. We will go through all of these at our scheduled budget review meeting with Schools on Saturday January 23.

**Finance Director Report:** Lorraine shared her list of the FY17 Additional Budget Requests noted in the submitted narratives. Her list was consistent with one John developed in December with the only difference being the need to include on Lorraine's list the \$15,000 requested by DPW for seasonal help to clear grass and brush along our roads.

**FY17 Budget Reviews:** Wyona and Doug attended our meeting to answer our questions and provide further perspective on the Park & Recreation FY17 budget request. Information provided included:

- The Waterfront Director budget increase of 15% reflects a new/higher salary grade and adding the additional funds the Finance Committee requested to keep the beach open in June.
- Wyona noted that the fields in Town are not sufficient to support the current organized sports' demands of the HAA, baseball, and other organized teams. Bruce questioned if conservation land could potentially be used, noting the conservation land on Stow Road might be good for Ultimate Frisbee.
- Scheduling of field use is currently a shared responsibility with HAA usually talking the lead, with Doug of Park & Rec and the Athletic Director of the School involved. They are considering development of an on-line system to reserve fields for greater transparency.
- The town must pay Mass Development if we use the fields at Devens for our sports programs.
- The increase from \$31,650 in FY16 to \$64,104 requested in FY17 for the commons and school parks budget reflects their desire to significantly increase field fertilization, aeration and maintenance. If approved, Wynona confirmed they will use the State approved vendors for the work (Diamond Athletic currently maintains the baseball and softball fields, and a different vendor works on the other fields as funds are available).

**Liaison Reports:** None.

**Other Business:** We still need to decide content and responsibility for the State of the Town and Spotlight sections of the Budget Book.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 23 at 8:30AM to review the Schools budget at the Old Library, followed by Wednesday, January 27 at 7PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Seeley, Secretary