

FINANCE COMMITTEE
TOWN OF HEATH
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING: DECEMBER 7, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:37PM.

Attendance: Jan Carr, Jeff Simmons, Don Freeman, Dave Gott

We passed over a review of the minutes from 11/29/10 meeting so that Ned could be present for that.

Article 5: We reviewed Tom Lively's memo on Whittemore Spring that had been emailed to us during the previous week. We acknowledged the motivations to preserve the spring for historical purposes and to make it potable. But we feel we that we need a lot more information in order to be able to make a recommendation. Concerns included there being no guarantees of success and a budget that only focuses on the next step of the process but not its entire duration. We don't have a sense of why it is timely to continue the project at this time so will suggest to BOS that this article be passed over until the annual town meeting.

Article 6: Jan spoke with Sheila Litchfield and Eileen Tougas this week. Storage is needed for various items of medical equipment that are useful to seniors and others. Currently those items are being stored on the balcony of the Community Hall, and the building inspector requires that they be moved at some point for safety's sake. But there does not appear to be a great urgency to this request. There is concern among townspeople about a separate shed being built in the town common area as well as what materials would be used for its construction. Furthermore, if the Mackie property is purchased, it would include an ideal storage facility available for various parties to use. Therefore we recommend passing over this article until the Annual Town Meeting.

Funding for Article 10: Don and Tracey and others have come up with a final proposal for funding Heath's contribution to the McCloud property purchase. We approved that proposal, including seeking a ten year loan which would appear to best balance the amount of each year's payments with projected revenues.

Dave left the meeting at 7PM.

Articles 8 and 9: Although we already recommended these articles at our last meeting, concern was raised that we did not get to hear initial presentations at which these expenditures were requested.

FinCom's need for information regarding finance-related requests from town departments and for town projects: Don will ask the BOS how FinCom can obtain timely notice of such requests.

Dave returned to the meeting at 7:30. FinCom joined BOS at 7:40PM.

Article 10: We presented our thinking to BOS on how to finance this Article. BOS agreed. This proposal will be incorporated into an informational handout for the STM.

Article 5: BOS shared with FinCom that they have questioned whether this is the time to give up on restoring Whittemore Spring. However, BOS appears to want to press on with professional recommendations to apply sand to the surrounding embankment this fall in hopes that the long term problem of groundwater contamination will be eliminated and the spring will finally pass DEP safety tests. According to BOS, we could then assess what additional costs would be required in order to complete the project.

FinCom's request for timely information: Options available to improve FinCom access to information appear to include sending a FinCom member to every BOS meeting, receiving an agenda before each meeting on which finance-related items are highlighted, and contacting the Town Coordinator to find out about last minute changes.

FinCom met again on our own at 8:30 at which time Jeff left the meeting. We indicated greater openness to supporting Article 5 after learning what we did from BOS. Don offered to draft a memorandum for discussion at our next meeting suggesting how FinCom could obtain timely information.

We decided that the next FinCom meeting will be held at 7PM on December 13 at Sawyer Hall.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Notes prepared by Dave Gott with assistance from Jan Carr.