

Minutes
Town of Lexington Appropriation Committee
March 31, 2008

Place and time: Cary Memorial Building, Legion Room, 6:40 p.m.

Members present: Alan Levine (Chair), Deborah Brown (Vice Chair), John Bartenstein (Secretary), Richard Eurich, Pam Hoffman, Susan McLeish, Eric Michelson, Rob Addelson (ex officio, non-voting)

Others present: Dawn McKenna (Tourism Committee), Richard Pagett (Community Preservation Committee & Center Committee), Jane Pagett

- 1. Article 23 Rescind Prior Borrowing Authorizations.** Two items will be included:

 - a) Art 30B – 2005 – White House Planning – School Admin. This would rescind \$154K of a \$240K authorization.
 - b) Art 32C – 2005 – Traffic Signal Improvements – Lowell & Maple. This would rescind \$25K of a \$75K authorization.

These items have been presented to CEC and they have no objections. The Board of Selectmen voted to support it. The Committee recommends support (7-0).
- 2. Liberty Ride.** The Board of Selectmen are asking Town Meeting to establish a revolving fund for the Liberty Ride. A cash flow analysis conducted by Rob Addelson suggests that the revolving fund should be funded with \$20K. To achieve this, \$17,500 would come from a reduction in the appropriation to the Reserve Fund, and an additional \$2659 transfer will come from the Selectmen's gift fund. Town Meeting must first establish the revolving fund under Article 8. Then the following changes must be made to Article 4:

 - a) reduce line item 2300, Reserve Fund, to \$532,500,
 - b) reduce line item 7300, Economic Development Personal Services, to \$92,212,
 - c) reduce line item 7300, Economic Development Expenses, to \$14,166.

The Committee recommends support (7-0).
- 3. Reserve Fund Transfer Request.** Rob Addelson presented a request to transfer \$40,000 from the Reserve Fund to line item 8220, Town Manager's Legal Services. Due to extended contract negotiations and an ongoing disciplinary hearing, this line item is under funded, and \$39,000 is currently due. The balance in this line item is \$630 and the Reserve Fund balance is \$369,000. Legal fees will continue to accumulate even after this transfer, and the staff will evaluate anticipated expenses through the year. Options to fund this line include funding under Article 27, 3% transfers or additional Reserve Fund transfers. The Committee unanimously supports this (7-0).

4. **Land Acquisition.** The Community Preservation Committee anticipates presenting a land acquisition request to Town Meeting. The CPC will hold a public hearing on April 29 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

5. **Center Business District Sidewalks.** Article 15 (Appropriate for Municipal Capital Projects and Equipment) includes a request for \$370,000 for the third phase of five for the Center Business District sidewalk project. Phase 4 & 5 will be for sidewalks on Waltham St and Mass Ave from Muzzey St to the Library. The Center Committee and Tourism Committee support this article. The CEC disapproves of this project. A community review meeting of phase one was attended by Eric Michelson and Susan McLeish. The feedback from that meeting has the Selectmen seeking additional information about maintenance (brick surface and trees), about accessibility testing, and from the City of Cambridge, who have a similar sidewalk program. The Committee has questions: is it necessary to incur the additional costs attributable to the use of structural soil? The structural soil is necessary for street trees to thrive in a congested urban setting, and will prevent roots from heaving the sidewalks. Is it necessary to install brick on Muzzey St? Brick is requested as a method of tying the business district together via "connectivity" as recommended by the Dixon report. Also mentioned was that the HDC has already approved brick sidewalks, and may not approve another surface. The CEC and the Center Committee will have a meeting on Wednesday at 9 AM.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Michelson

Approved June 25, 2008