

FINANCE COMMITTEE
IPSWICH TOWN HALL, ROOM A
25 Green Street
TUESDAY, July 12, 2016, 7:30 PM
Accepted 9/13/16

FINCOM Members in Attendance: Mitch Feldman, Chairman, Walt Hartford, Kevin Murphy, Rob White, Michael Schaaf, Janice Clements Skelton, and Mike Dougherty. Jamie Fay and Tammy Howe were absent.

Call to order at 7:36 pm with 7 (seven) members present. ICAM was recording, and the Minutes Secretary, Cindy Quinn, was present.

Others in Attendance: Sarah Johnson (Finance Director) and Glenn Gibbs (Planning & Development Dir.)

Abbreviations used: FINCOM Finance Committee, BOS Board of Selectmen, TM Town Manager, SC School Committee, ATM Annual Town Meeting, EDAG Economic Development Advocacy Group, ELD Electric Light Dept., MAPC Metropolitan Area Planning Council, MSBA Massachusetts School Building Authority, SBC School Building Committee, STM Special Town Meeting, ZBA Zoning Board of Appeals

Documents used:

- Agenda 07/12/16 and Minutes from 4/12/16
- Potential Zoning Articles for Fall Town Meeting from E. Parsons, by email on 7/12/16
- Zoning Articles handout from G. Gibbs
- Concept Description for Town-Wide Marketing Plan from G. Gibbs, 4/27/16, 2 pgs.
- Economic Development Update from G. Gibbs, 6/14/16, 1 pg.
- Status of Commercial/Community Facilities/Residential Projects of 8 Units or More from G. Gibbs, Jan. 2015 to June 2016, 1 pg.

CITIZEN QUERIES: there were no citizen inquiries.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from 4/12/16. The vote was 6-0 with J. Skelton abstaining.

FUNDS TRANSFER

Finance Director, Sarah Johnson, announced that no transfers were needed. The Town Manager was able to move monies within each directorate. The Town's free cash is looking good for the fall, but the State's budget will have cuts, especially for green crabs. After taking about Linebrook Rd., she plans to meet with R. Clark. She went over the Circuit Breaker options that the Town is considering for senior citizens.

Michael requested a report on the funds moved within each directorate, and Janice wanted more detail on the encumbrances. While Sarah tries to complete FY16, she has not worked on the long-range budget.

SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

Kevin informed the group on the various properties that the SBC is looking at and their status. Concerning Bialek, he detailed the various fields there. Town Counsel summarized that the 1912 Bialek Park deed was not for conservation or park use but just a playground, and Article 97 was for conservation or park usage. If Bialek is chosen, the BOS would have to vote to transfer the land and obtain 2/3 vote at either STM or ATM.

Then Kevin spoke about the setup of the building and meeting educational goals, and the architect is still working on the Winthrop and Bialek Park sites. After the meeting with abutters, the Kimball Ave. side may have room for a small park. There was some discussion on a possible STM vote on the Bialek transfer to the schools and the Winthrop transfer back to the town.

One possibility is the Wegzyn site with 13.5 acres with some wetlands, and Kevin noted that it might be studied once it is deemed viable. The SBC is exploring this option. In general, no choice has been made, and the SBC is still solving issues. Kevin will send out information as it comes in.

UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Glenn Gibbs, Planning & Development Director, updated the committee on economic activity from Jan. 2016. A request was submitted in Jan. to the MAPC for assistance on managing the parking in the downtown area. In March, the EDAG group met to establish subcommittees and strategies. Michael is a member of this group.

With one sign completed, Glenn continued with the other 21 Wayfinding signs, which have been sent out to bid. Some will need State approval. In February, EDAG established goals and objectives as well as the promotion plan process and a listing of various properties. Later the group developed the marketing proposal.

In April, Glenn attended the newly established roundtable of businesses in the downtown, spoke to the Chamber of Commerce, and met with Ipswich Partnership, who will help raise funds for the marketing idea. The next month, he presented the plan to the BOS, then Seth Moulton, and the DPW Director along with the sign contractor.

Wayfinding signs will be at Town Hill (digital kiosk), the train station, the Visitor's Center, and the Library. Glenn is working with the Trustees of Reservations and Argilla Rd. businesses on various traffic issues. There was a conversation about having remote signs for road closures.

Then he reviewed the chart on the status of commercial, community facilities, and residential projects of eight or more units. The new roundtable group happens to be concerned about the SoCho district issues such as parking and signs. For the Riverwalk, it may be extended on both sides, and new signs directing people there may be useful.

Glenn will forward info on the jobs created by local businesses. Michael added that the group is engaging the major employers in the marketing proposal. New England Biolabs has purchased the Barroway Farm, which is 20 acres, and there may be restrictions later. There was a conversation about the Route 1 projects, the properties up for sale along the road, and the

rezoning failures for last STM. It may be a good area for an electric charging station, which Michael would bring to the ELD.

For the STM, Glenn has three articles on miscellaneous changes, sign regulations, and housing. Some of the changes will make it easier to understand, while others will allow special permits through the ZBA. Some of the housing language will make it easier to provide opportunities for single-family housing.

He updated the FinCom on Steep Hill and the 20 acres up for sale. The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) has asked the Town for \$500,000 toward the purchase price, which the BOS will consider. Glen explained how the Trustees already hold 500 acres out there. The family divided their property into two parcels, the Steep Hill one and the other. Most of the larger piece could be developed and is off Argilla Rd, but has no public access.

FY 16 FINANCE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

M. Schaaf nominated R. White as Chair, and J. Skelton seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0.

R. White moved that J. Fay be Vice Chair. M. Feldman seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

FEOFFEEES APPOINTMENT

R. White moved to appoint Tom Reardon to Feoffees, and J. Skelton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

For Article 21 at ATM, W. Hartford will serve on the Climate Action Study Committee. Sarah will find out who is Chair of the Audit Committee, and \$276,000 was encumbered. Not everyone will be here for the Aug. 9th meeting, so Rob will email the committee.

M. Schaaf moved to adjourn at 9:10 pm. K. Murphy seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by

Cynthia D. Quinn, Minutes Secretary