

DOVER WARRANT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 10, 2024 Meeting

Members in Attendance: Jerry Chen, Melissa Herman, Marty Howard, Cam Hudson, Sara Cadena Kinney, Janet McCormick, Steve Migausky, Peter Smith, Woody Weiss

Others in Attendance: Robyn Hunter, Board of Selectmen; Carol Lisbon, Planning Board; Jasmin Farinacci, Town Planner; Bethany Klem, Library Director; Rob Andrews, Board of Library Trustees

Location: on-line, via Zoom

Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Planning Board – Carol Lisbon and Jasmin Farinacci

The FY2025 operating budget request is \$240,268; an increase of \$10,747 (+8.0%) from the FY2024 request of \$229,521. The growth is in salaries, as per guidance, plus longevity and an allowance for overtime. Expenses are level-funded.

The Board expects to begin work on the Master Plan, which was last updated in 2012. They will also work with the DPW to craft a stormwater mitigation bylaw, probably to appear at the May 2025 Town Meeting.

As many as four bylaw changes may be presented at next Town Meeting:

- Limits on construction hours – The initial proposal is to limit work to 7am to 6pm on weekdays, 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. There will be a public hearing on February 26 to solicit public input.
- Small and medium solar arrays – The Town has a bylaw covering large (>250MW) installations, but nothing for anything smaller. The bylaw would codify best practices for inspection criteria and location.
- Land use zoning – This would encourage more open space, preservation of natural resources, and tree cover. Development of the new bylaw is being funded by a State grant.
- Accessory Dwelling Units – There is a flaw in the wording of the ADU bylaw passed last year which may or may not require Town Meeting approval to correct.

Library – Bethany Klem

The FY2025 operating budget request is \$941,505; an increase of \$47,147 (+5.3%) from the FY2024 request of 894,358. Wages and utilities increased as per guidelines. Data processing increased to reflect actual expenditures so far this year and an expected increase in web hosting fees. The budget for books and materials increased by 5.3% so that it remains at 15% of the total budget, as is necessary to retain State certification and Minuteman Library Network membership. Donations by the Friends of the Dover Library cover programs, hospitality, museum passes, and re-design of the website. The installation of ADA-compliant doors on the lower level (approved at last Town Meeting) is underway.

Other Business

Mr. Migausky moved that the minutes of January 3 be approved, seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion was approved 7-0-2.

Mr. Hudson and Dr. Weiss met with Dan Sichel, chair of the Sherborn Advisory Committee, to discuss the Regional Schools budget. It was agreed to search for opportunities to share resources between the two towns wherever practicable.

There was a discussion of how the Town's bond rating (currently Aaa) is arrived at. Mr. Hudson has posted an explanation of the metrics that Moody's uses to the file share, and members are encouraged to

review it. Ms. Hunter noted that the Treasurer and Finance Directory watch these metrics. We are fortunate that we now have a model extending into the future which we should refer to when asking “can we afford this?”

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn, seconded by unanimous proclamation. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary