



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)
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CFAC Committee:

Chair:
Lillian Woo

Members:
Robert Ciolek
Hector Guenther
John Schoenherr
Ralph Krau
Joseph Mladinich
Melanie Powers
Tracey Brochu

Staff Liaison:
Mark Milne
Nathan Empey

Councilor Liaison:
Paula Schnepf

MEETING MINUTES

09.09.19

6:00 PM

Planning & Development Conference Room

Roll Call:

- CFAC Members Present: Hector Guenther, Lillian Woo, Robert Ciolek, Tracey Brochu, Melanie Powers, Ralph Krau and John Schoenherr
- CFAC Members Absent: Joseph Mladinich
- Councilors Present: Paula Schnepf
- Staff Present: Nathan Empey, Budget Analyst
- Other Present: None

Call to Order:

Lillian Woo called the CFAC meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Planning & Development Conference Room at Town Hall.

Act on Minutes:

The following minutes were approved by unanimous vote:

07.22.19

Comments:

Lillian W. wanted to note that Ralph and Deb Krau were recognized at the August 15th Town Council meeting for their many years of volunteer services to the Town of Barnstable.

Old Business:

CFAC Annual Report approved by the committee.

CFAC Policy and Procedures approved by the committee.

Lillian W. suggested the committee to review and approve sending the original Barnstable Funding Principles that Bob C. because this document has already been circulated to the Finance Director and Town Manager.

Bob C. noted the Barnstable Funding Principles was originally created for the Barnstable Patriot, but was too large to publish. CFAC was given an opportunity to be involved, but declined, so the document was sent to a few individuals. Hecter G. asked would the committee approve and submit this with our names on it or our letterhead? Ralph K. responded we'd use our CFAC letterhead. Tracey B. asked we're approving CFAC's stamp on the document, but we're not expertize? Bob C. noted we're responding to Mark M. request to comment on the financial plan through the funding principles. John S. commented his' concern putting CFAC's name on the document without fulling understanding it, and that this is Bob's work. Bob C. responded that the committee has already talked a little about this document. Paula S. responded I think if this report came from the committee it would reach a larger audience. Bob C. responded his' only concern is that Town Council has not asked for this report. Ralph K. noted this topic has been discussed over several years through various sewer committees, but has been shelved. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated the Town to submit a sewer plan. Ralph K. noted there is a short timeline for reports to be submitted, and the idea was CFAC would be involved. Bob C. noted there are two goals within this report. The first is that the Town needs to act promptly, and the second is minimizing the costs to taxpayers. Bob C. noted the message is to Mark M. this plan needs to be done at the lowest cost possible and keep these principles in mind.

Tracey B. asked not everyone is going to get sewer, but pay for it? Bob C. responded either directly or indirectly. Lillian W. noted the Town created a sewer trust fund to help homeowners bare the cost. Tracey B. asked what do you mean indirectly? Bob C. responded to the extent General Fund money pays for it. Bob C. noted there are benefits to the community such as cleaner waters and economic development that the Town needs to convince property owners. Paula S. also noted homeowners could increase density by expanding rooms in their homes with sewer.

Bob C. noted no one knows what the assessment is going to be, but estimates are north of \$25,000 per property. Bob C. commented the question will be is there a positive relationship between property values and sewer? Ralph K. responded he thinks yes. Bob C. responded he doesn't agree there is a positive correlation between property values and sewer. Property owners are going to have to provide discounted prices to sell a house. Ralph K. noted if a homeowner's septic system fails there is incentive for sewer.

Lillian W. asked if the committee would like to go through the principles more carefully before approving? Ralph K. responded there is a short timeline. Paula S. responded CFAC could review the final plan instead. Bob C. responded I think Mark M. has this in mind. Lillian W. asked when do you think the plan would be approved? Paula S. responded sometime in the fall. John S. noted this is an internal document that's good, but what is the gain for CFAC to put a stamp on it? Bob C. responded to make CFAC relevant. Paula S. responded she could request to have CFAC participation elevated by Town Council. Bob C. noted there are far and few opportunities as a committee to get involved

Lillian W. noted CFAC is going to meet with DPW Assistant Director Rob Steen at the next meeting to discuss the wastewater plan.

The committee with the following changes approved the Financial Overview Report:

- Put the committee members names in alphabetical order after clerk position
- Add Cape Cod 5 Savings Bank project on economic development page, remove Target, but add an insert under Cape Cod Mall project

- Replace “most recent” with actual fiscal year
- Get approved picture for the school section as well as updated data from school department

New Business:

Lillian W. noted she discussed with the Town Manager the possibility of taking a percentage of the amount that would normally go to residential exemption and add that amount to the water management revenue source.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the chair:

None

Discussion of topics for the next meeting:

Rob Steen, Assistant Public Works Director will update the committee on the Comprehensive Wastewater Plan in the Procurement Conference Room at 6pm September 23rd.

Adjournment:

CFAC’s next meeting will be Monday September 23, 2019 at 6:00pm.

List of documents handed out

1. 07.22.19 minutes
2. Barnstable Funding Principles
3. CFAC Financial Overview Report
4. CFAC Annual Report
5. CFAC Policy and Procedures