

*Westwood Finance and Warrant Commission*  
*MARCH 1, 2023 FIRST PUBLIC HEARING*  
*IN PERSON*  
*7:00 PM*  
*Meeting Minutes*

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Finance Commission Chairperson George Hertz called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

Finance and Warrant Commission members who were present: William Bruce Jr., James Ferraro, Lauren Fitzpatrick, George Hertz, Angeila Hughes, George Laham, George Maroun, Christopher Poreda, Sean Weller, and Alexander Yale. Members who were authorized prior to the meeting, participated remotely via speakerphone: Mike Gay and Caitlyn Jurczak.

Chairperson Hertz then granted permission to Westwood Media Center to live stream and record the meeting. He also asked if anyone else would like to record this meeting.

He then welcomed all participants, members, presenters and members of public and press to the FinCom March 1, 2023 First Public Hearing.

Afterwards, Chairperson Hertz led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Finance Commission administrator, Ms. Wong then called the ROLL.

Members were provided with the final agenda and all other related materials prior to the meeting.

Prior to the evening's presentations, Chairperson Hertz made some introductory comments:

- This was the first of two Public Hearings. The Public Hearings will be in person to allow discussion and input from members, presenters and the public. The Final Public Hearing will be on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 where the formal voting on recommendations for each warrant article will take place.
- FinCom Subcommittee Presentations will take place on Zoom on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In the next meeting, the Chair will be asking FinCom members to volunteer on write ups for the warrant articles.

***The Evening's Presenters:***

***- Nora Loughnane (Director of Community & Economic Development, Christopher Pfaff (Planning Board Chair), Members of the Planning Board- 2023 ATM "Planning Board" Warrant Articles.***

The Chair introduced the evening's first presentation. Nora Loughnane (Director of Community & Economic Development) and Christopher Pfaff (Planning Board Chair) were present. Ms. Loughnane started her presentation on the Planning Board's 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

When all members of the Planning Board were present, Mr. Pfaff called the roll and continued the Planning Board's public hearing from their last meeting. Ms. Loughnane then continued her presentation. A Q&A took place after each article was introduced. Ms. Loughnane will follow up on a member question: What is the estimated cost per charging station to the town on an annual basis? Another member asked about the status of the MBTA lot proposal that was submitted last December. Ms. Loughnane confirmed that the Attorney General approved the town meeting's vote and that they are expecting applications in the upcoming weeks for a project at 22 Everett St. She then mentioned she can provide copies of the action plan that was filed with the state on Westwood's compliance with the MBTA community bylaw. At the end of the presentation, Chairperson Hertz thanked Ms. Loughnane for her excellent work and stated he was impressed by the depth and breadth of her knowledge on these Articles and for performing multiple roles. He also thanked the Planning Board for their time in attending this meeting. The Planning Board will continue their meeting on Zoom on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pfaff called their meeting to adjourn.

***- Christopher Coleman (Town Administrator), Robert Gotti (Select Board Chair), Members of the Select Board, Town Staff, and Members of the Charter Review Committee***

The Chair introduced the evening's final presentation. Christopher Coleman (Town Administrator), Robert Gotti (Select Board Chair), Members of the Select Board, Town Staff, Pat Ahearn (Town Counsel) and Members of the Charter Review Committee were present. Mr. Gotti called the meeting for the Select Board to order. Then he thanked FinCom members for their dedication of time, energy and diligence in helping town residents understand the town budget and warrant articles. Mr. Gotti stated they are in the process of finalizing budget warrant articles. The budget warrant articles #1 - #12 will be presented in more detail at Fincom's Final Public Hearing on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Coleman presented an update on 2023 Annual Town Meeting "Select Board" Warrant Articles. The Select Board voted on their Feb 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to substitute Miscellaneous 1 and 2 for Budget #12 and #13 warrant articles. Mr. Coleman introduced Budget #12 warrant article on Fire Ladder Truck Borrowing. Mr. Todd Korchin (Director Public Works) was present to introduce Budget #13 Warrant Article on Cemetery Expansion Construction Borrowing. Mr. Coleman and Korchin spent considerable amount of time answering members' questions. Chairperson Hertz requested that the Town Finance Director provide information explaining the economics of the Cemetery Expansion Project. Next, Mr. Coleman was joined by Mr. Pat Ahearn (Town Counsel) in presenting Select Board Article #1. Their plan is to dispose of 47 Willard Circle through an RFP process. A Q&A from members took place afterwards. Then, Ms. Nancy Hyde (Member of Charter Review Committee) presented the Select Board Article #2. Prior to Ms. Hyde starting, Mr. Paul Fitzgerald called the

meeting to order for the Charter Review Committee. After the presentation on Article # 2, Ms. Hyde, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Coleman, and Special Counsel Ms. Lauren Goldberg spent considerable amount of time answering members' questions. Lastly, Mr. Gotti thanked the Charter Review Committee for their remarkable effort and time in their discussions.

Member Discussion:

- Chair's update: Chairperson Hertz thanked all FinCom members for their very thoughtful questions. He also reminded members that subcommittee reports are due on March 14<sup>th</sup> and he is seeking for volunteers on write-ups on the warrant articles.
- During Old business discussion, Vice Chair Poreda indicated that during the last meetings report on Hale Reservation, he did not mean to impugn the integrity of anyone during that discussion. There will be no further discussion since there is no warrant article to review.
- Members were asked to review and approve the meeting minutes for February 14, 2023. A motion was offered and seconded. A ROLL call took place. Eleven members approved the minutes. Three members were absent. Due to technical difficulties on the conference phone, one member abstained.

Chairperson Hertz then entertained questions from the public and the press.

- One resident clarified the Town Tax Collector's role and responsibilities.

The Select Board and Charter Review Committee both called the meeting to adjourn for their respective Boards.

The Chair thanked members for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was offered and seconded. Twelve members were in favor. Three members were absent.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:06PM**

For a complete video of the 03/01/23 FinCom Public Hearing please see the following link:

<https://westwoodmediacenter.tv/>