

Waban Area Council

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2014

Members in Attendance: Barbara Bower, Joe Corkery, Andreae Downs, Matthew Gardella, Rena Getz, Sallee Lipshutz, Maureen Reilly Meagher, Christopher Pitts, Kathy Winters.

Aldermen in Attendance: John Rice and Brian Yates.

Other Attendees: Isabelle Albeck and Nelson Lipshutz.

This meeting was held in the cafeteria at City Hall and took place in conjunction with the swearing in of all members by Mayor Setti Warren.

1. Joint Meeting With Area Councils: Prior to the swearing-in ceremony, the members of the Waban Area Council met briefly with members of Newton's other three area councils (Newton Highlands, Newton Upper Falls, and Newtonville) and discussed ways of facilitating communication among the area councils. The members of all of the Councils agreed that it would be effective to have representatives from each Council meet from time to time to share information.

2. Adoption of By-Laws. The proposed By-Laws, a copy of which is attached, were approved by unanimous vote.

3. Election of Officers. The following officers were elected by unanimous vote:

President – Sallee Lipshutz

Vice President – Maureen Reilly Meagher

Treasurer – Rena Getz

Secretary – Kathy Winters

4. Issues Overview. There was a discussion about the various issues that certain members have been involved in and that can be expected to be of ongoing interest to Waban residents and the Council: the zoning reform initiative, the Rt. 128/Rt. 9 ramp redesign project ("Add-A-Lane"), a possible "Friends of Quinobequin" group, the Angier and Zervas construction projects, and traffic calming (specifically "play streets") were all raised as possible issues for the Council to work on. Both Aldermen Yates and Aldermen Rice informed members of their areas of focus and provided advice as to how the Council can effectively advocate for Waban.

5. Public Input at Meetings. It was agreed that meetings should include a public comment period where residents could raise new issues that could be discussed or docketed for future meetings.

6. Next Meeting Date. The next meeting is set for Thursday February 13th at 7:30pm at the Waban Library Center.

BY-LAWS OF THE WABAN AREA COUNCIL

ARTICLE I - AUTHORITY

The By-Laws for the Waban Area Council, (“Council”), are promulgated under the authority granted to it by Article 9, Section 9-9(b) of the Charter of the City of Newton, (“Charter”), as adopted on November 2, 1971 and taking effect on January 1, 1972, as amended.

ARTICLE II - COUNCIL

Section 1 - General Powers

The affairs of the Waban neighborhood service area, (“Area”), shall be managed by the Council as authorized by Article 9 of the Charter and the “Board Resolution Adopting Area Council” #198-13, (“Resolution”), approved July 8, 2013.

Section 2 – Name and Composition

The Council shall be known as the “Waban Area Council.” In accordance with Section II of the Resolution, the Council shall consist of nine members. Further, the term of office of each member shall be two years, and until a successor is qualified.

Section 3 - Meetings

(a) Regular Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held at least nine (9) times per calendar year provided a quorum is present. A quorum shall be defined as five (5) members of the Council.

(b) Special Meetings.

(i) In General.

A special meeting of the Council may be called by the president of the Council, or by a quorum of its members, by causing a notice of such meeting, specifying the matters to be considered, to be sent to each Council member. Notice shall be made by regular mail, left at the usual place of residence of each Council member, given to each Council member in hand, or delivered to each council member via e-mail. Notice of all special meetings shall comport with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 30A, §§ 18-25, as amended.

(ii) By Request of Area Voters.

A special meeting of the Council shall be called by the president of the Council or a quorum of its members within twenty (20) days of receipt by the Council of a written request by not fewer than fifty (50) registered voters of the Area. Such request shall be deemed received by the Council when sent by regular mail to, served in hand upon, or delivered via e-mail to, the secretary for the Council.

(c) Notice of Meetings. The Council shall give notice of all meetings according to the procedures set forth in the Open Meeting Law. Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 30A, §§ 18-25, as amended.

(d) Manner of Acting. While a quorum is present at a meeting, any action may be taken by a majority vote of the Council members present, except as otherwise provided by law, ordinance or these By-Laws.

(e) Records. The Council shall maintain accurate records setting forth any action or actions taken at each meeting, and make available a summary of all matters voted in the manner required by the Open Meeting Law. Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 30A, §§ 18-25, as amended.

(f) Conduct of Meetings. Where applicable and not in conflict with any law or ordinance, procedures for the meetings of the Council shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order as most recently revised and amended.

Section 4 – Officers

The officers of the Council shall be president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The officers shall be elected by the Council from among its members at the first regular meeting of each calendar year and shall hold office until the first regular meeting of the subsequent calendar year and until their successors have been elected.

(a) President and Vice President.

(i) The president, or if absent, the vice president, shall preside over all meetings of the Council. In the absence of both, a temporary presiding officer shall be elected from among the members present.

(ii) The president shall exercise general supervision over all of the affairs of the Council.

(iii) The president shall be a member ex-officio of all committees but shall not be counted in determining a quorum if serving on a committee only as a member ex-officio.

(iv) In the absence of the president, the vice president may act in his or her stead.

(b) Secretary.

(i) The secretary of the Council shall:

(1) maintain a complete and accurate record of all proceedings and correspondence of the Council;

(2) comply with Sections 3 (c) and (e) of this Article;

(3) post and file notices of meetings as may be required, and in the manner required;

(4) shall make at the end of every calendar year an annual report of the Council's activities to the Board of Alderman as required by Section 9-10 of the Charter, which report shall be open to the public, and

(5) perform all other duties usually appertaining to the office of secretary.

(ii) In the absence or incapacity of the secretary, any power which he or she may have may be delegated by the Council to one of its members.

(c) Treasurer.

(i) The treasurer of the Council shall:

- (1) give bond, if required by the Council;
- (2) make payments only for bills properly approved by the Council and as otherwise authorized by law;
- (3) keep complete and accurate financial records of the activities of the Council which shall be subject to City audit as required by Article 9, Section 9-11 of the Charter or as otherwise required by law;
- (4) submit a financial report to the Council at the end of every calendar year.

(ii) In the absence or incapacity of the treasurer, any power which he or she may have may be delegated by the Council to one of its members.

(d) Removal from Office. Any officer may be removed, either with or without cause, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council, at any regular or special meeting.

(e) Resignation. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to any member of the Council. Written notice shall include written notice given by electronic means. Any such resignation shall take effect upon the date of the receipt of such notice, or at any later time specified therein. Acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 5 - Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy on the Council, the Council shall elect, by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the remaining members, a person to fill such vacancy from among Area residents.

Section 6 – Debt

The Council shall not incur any debt or liability exceeding the net assets of the Council.

Section 7 - Legal Opinions

The Council shall consult with the City Solicitor on matters of law to the same extent as such consultation is required of City officers, departments, agencies, boards and commissions, pursuant to Section 15-2(e) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton.

ARTICLE III - COMMITTEES

The Council may establish committees from time to time as it deems necessary and in the best interests of the Area, to report to it on subjects requiring investigation, or for such purposes as the Council may consider appropriate. Committee membership need not be limited to members of the Council. Meetings of any committee established hereunder are subject to the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. Mass. Gen. Laws. ch. 30A §§ 18-25, as amended, to the extent provided therein.

ARTICLE IV - COMMUNICATION WITH CITY GOVERNMENT

(a) In General. In furtherance of Article 9 of the Charter, and in conjunction with the Resolution, the Council may advise the various departments, agencies, boards and commissions of the City concerning any and all matters of interest to the Area.

(b) By Petition of Area Voters. In accordance with Section IV (G) of the Resolution, upon receipt of written petitions from twenty (20) percent of the registered voters expressing an opinion of the community, the Council shall forthwith communicate such opinion by written memorandum to the Clerk of the City of Newton, and to such other City officers, departments, agencies, boards and/or commissions as may be appropriate.

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

(a) In General. In accordance with Article 9, Section 9-9 (b) of the Charter, the By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Council. Such vote shall take place during a regular or special meeting of the Council.

(b) Notice. Notice of any meeting to discuss or vote upon a proposed amendment to the By-Laws shall be made to registered voters of the Area specifying the substance and nature of the proposed amendment. Such notice shall be given at least fourteen (14) days prior to the public meeting at which such amendment will be presented for consideration. The notice shall comply with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 30A §§ 18-25, as amended.

(c) Review by the City Solicitor. Proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the City Solicitor prior to a public meeting on said proposed amendment.

ARTICLE VI - DISSOLUTION OF COUNCIL AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

Should the Council be dissolved in the manner provided by Article 9, Section 9-6 of the Charter or any other manner, the assets of the Council shall be distributed in a manner approved by twenty (20) percent of registered voters unless otherwise provided by law.

ARTICLE VII - CONSTRUCTION

If any provision of these By-Laws shall in any manner conflict with or contravene any Federal or State law, ordinance, or the Charter, such law, ordinance, or the Charter shall govern and the remaining provisions of these By-Laws shall remain in full force and effect.