

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### Minutes of the Meeting

May 20, 2019

1. Vice-President Logan called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm.
2. Vice-President Logan requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Fowler, Harris, LaCava, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President Logan were present. Councillor Nabulime was absent.
3. President Brasco moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on May 6, 2019. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting were approved.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Julia DeCola as a member of the Board of Registrar of Voters. Councillor Romard moved to hear from Ms. DeCola. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questioning, Ms. DeCola spoke of her experience noting that she is currently serving as a temporary appointment. Councillor Romard moved to confirm the appointment of Julia DeCola as a member of the Board of Registrar of Voters. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the appointment of Julia DeCola was confirmed.
5. A resolution concerning marijuana equity provisions was submitted by Councillor Mackin. Councillor Mackin moved to hear from one of the State Cannabis Commissioners, Shaleen Title. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Mackin spoke of the need for equity provisions for recreational marijuana host community agreements. Councillor Mackin asked several questions pertaining to the application process, the criteria and the determination of who gets the license, community outreach, the cap on the number of licenses, non-compliance issues and who is responsible for the provisions in the host community agreement. Commissioner Title spoke about the process at both the State and local level and stated that the negotiation of the host agreement is done by the Mayor's Office with approval of the City Council. Councillor Mackin asked if small business were encouraged to participate and Commissioner Title responded affirmatively. Councillor Romard asked about the application process and the type of background investigation that would be conducted to determine the suitability of the applicant. Councillor D. LeBlanc stated that Waltham would get four (4) licenses but the City could pass local legislation to put in restrictions. Councillor Mackin moved to discharge the matter to the City Council with the intent it would be committed to the Rules and Ordinances Committee. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

6. A resolution was submitted by Vice-President Logan and Councillor Fowler concerning the air rights lease behind 220-226 Moody Street. Councillor Fowler moved to hear from the Mayor, Assistant Solicitor Luke Stanton and Purchasing Agent Joseph Pedulla. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler asked about the status of the air rights lease and if the City could move forward. The Mayor explained the contents of an e-mail that was sent from Attorney Stanton to the petitioner's attorney, Robert Levy. It was stated that the City could not give more land since it was not part of the original RFP that was publicly advertised. The Mayor stated that Attorney Stanton has not received the draft lease from Attorney Levy. The Mayor gave a chronological summary of the events leading up to this point in time, including the proposed duration of the lease, proposed financial considerations and having to abide by the decisions of the Traffic Commission. Vice-President Logan and Councillor Fowler both expressed hope that the issue could get resolved. Councillor Fowler moved to request the e-mail correspondence between Attorney Stanton and Attorney Levy be provided to the COW members. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter of the air rights lease was tabled.
7. Councillor McMenimen moved to take the matter of the property at 102 Trimount Avenue (4/8/2019) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen moved to hear from Assistant Solicitor Patricia Azadi, Purchasing Agent Joseph Pedulla and Assessor Francis Craig. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen asked Attorney Azadi several questions pertaining to legal issues about the property including the property tax status, how the property will be disposed and if the building had been secured. Councillor McMenimen asked several questions about how two other properties had been handled by the City - house on Berkley Street and the commercial property on Charles Street (Varney Printing). Councillor Vidal asked several questions about the ability of the Council to place affordable restrictions on the 102 Trimount Ave property. Attorney Azadi explained if the affordability threshold was set too low it could adversely impact the potential owner from obtaining a mortgage and/or having sufficient resources to make repairs to the property. Councillor Vidal moved to have the Housing Director attend the next COW meeting. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Vidal moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.
8. A motion by Councillor McMenimen to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:10pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Committee of the Whole