

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### Minutes of the Meeting

January 19, 2016

1. Vice-President LeBlanc called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm.
2. Vice-President LeBlanc requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – all Councillors except Councillor Giordano was present.
3. Councillor Logan moved to accept the minutes of the COW meeting held on December 21, 2015, as amended. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the amended minutes were approved.
4. President Marchese moved to accept the minutes of the COW meeting held on December 28, 2015. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes were approved.
5. A communication was received from the Mayor concerning the property located at 554 Lexington Street (Stigmatine's) and the Mayor's recommendation to obtain an appraisal. Councillor Brasco moved to request the Mayor to obtain an appraisal. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Brasco moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A communication was received from the Mayor concerning the property located at 92 Felton Street. Councillor Logan inquired "What are we being asked to do?" Vice President LeBlanc responded that the Committee has been presented with two options, decide on an option and respond to the Mayor. Councillor Logan stated that he had no objection to use 92 Felton Street as a homeless shelter, but reminded the Committee about the two responses that the City received from a proposal to lease the 92 Felton Street property. Councillor Logan moved to use 92 Felton Street as a temporary homeless shelter. On the motion, Councillor Brasco stated there was no request before the Committee. Councillor Brasco further stated that the Prospect Hill Ski Lodge be used as the temporary homeless shelter, since it could be used immediately without any renovation needed. Councillor Romard stated the Mayor needs to provide a full plan for the use of the 92 Felton Street property. President Marchese expressed a need to

find a place for the homeless, but the Bright School is not a suitable location. Councillor Fowler suggested that the matter be tabled, since a pending resolution concerning a homeless shelter included a request for the Mayor to appear this evening and the Committee should hold off on a decision until after the Mayor speaks. Councillor Logan withdrew his original motion and moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

7. A resolution concerning a homeless shelter was submitted by Vice President LeBlanc, including a request for the Mayor to appear. A motion to hear from an off-committee member – Mayor McCarthy was adopted on a voice vote. President Marchese asked about the use of 92 Felton Street as a temporary homeless shelter and what needs to be done to make it habitable. The Mayor responded that the Council had rejected the 14 Church Street property and this was the only other available City building. The Mayor provided the Committee with an itemized list and cost of the renovation needs from the Superintendent of Buildings and the Inspector of Wires. The Mayor also explained the staffing needs to operate the temporary homeless shelter – outreach worker, building custodian and police officer. The Mayor stressed she did not believe in enabling people, that only Waltham residents should be eligible, the concerns from the community about the homeless situation ranging from the lack of resources to the trouble they cause and for the City to not be in the business of operating a homeless shelter. The Mayor stated the City does provide funding through the CDBG program to assist three current shelters. The Mayor also stated that a Request for Services (RFS) for an outside agency to operate a homeless shelter was pending responses. The Mayor again stressed that the City would be willing to provide a building, but not operate the shelter. Councillor Logan insisted that Level 3 sex offenders not be allowed. Councillor Romard inquired of the Mayor if alternative sites have been considered – Fitch School, Banks School auditorium, Waltham Community & Cultural Center auditorium, renting commercial space, hospitals and churches. The Mayor stated that 92 Felton Street could be ready in about a week and in response to a question from Councillor Fowler, stated that the Bright School would be available until that time. Councillor McMenimen asked rhetorically, “Where is the State on this issue?”. To which Councillor McMenimen, “Nowhere.” Councillors O’Brien, Darcy and McLaughlin all expressed support for 92 Felton Street. Councillor Brasco moved to request the Law Department to provide an opinion as to the liability of the City of Waltham for providing a building and personnel to provide a shelter for the homeless. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor

Logan move to place the resolution on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

8. Councillor Logan moved to take the matter of the Mayor's communication concerning the property located at 92 Felton Street from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Logan moved to respond to the Mayor's communication of January 7, 2016 by concurring that the use of 92 Felton Street is consistent with the Mayor's recommendation. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of thirteen Councillors in favor with Councillor Brasco voting present and Councillor Giordano absent from the vote.
9. Councillor Vizard moved to take the matter of 380 Lexington Street (11/9/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Vizard moved to invite the Mayor, Traffic Engineer, a representative of the Conservation Commission and a representative of the Historical Commission to the next COW meeting scheduled for February 1, 2016. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Vizard moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. Councillor Darcy moved to take the matter of 554 Lexington Street from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy asked that the request to the Mayor to obtain an appraisal of the Stigmatine's property include each of the following addresses and acreage – 554 Lexington Street (31 acres), 75R Lincoln Street (10 acres) and 111R Lincoln Street (5 acres) for a total of 46 acres. The request to the Mayor was adopted on a roll call vote of fourteen Councillors in favor and Councillor Giordano absent from the vote. Councillor Darcy moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
11. President Marchese moved to adjourn and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:55pm.

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