

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

February 1, 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 were present (Councillor O'Brien arrived at 8:10pm).
3. President Marchese moved to accept the minutes of the COW meeting held on January 19, 2016. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes were approved.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Francisco Torres, 62 Albemarle Road, Waltham as a member of the Board of Trustees of the City of Waltham Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Councillor Darcy moved to suspend Rule 9 to hear from someone off-committee – Francisco Torres. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Torres explained his background and experience to the Committee, including his current position as the Economic Development Manager for the Town of Westborough. Councillor Darcy moved approval of Mr. Torre's appointment. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Donald P. Doherty, 144 Brown Street, Waltham as a constable. Councillor Rourke moved to suspend Rule 9 to hear from someone off-committee – Donald Doherty. Councillor Rourke spoke of the applicant's great resume and experience, citing his former position as a Waltham Police Officer and 31 year career in service to the U.S. military. Councillors Logan, Giordano, McMenimen, Brasco and Marchese all spoke highly of Mr. Doherty, offering their insight into his character, service and commitment to the Waltham community. Councillor Rourke moved approval of Mr. Doherty's appointment. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. Councillor Vizard moved to take the docket item of 380 Lexington Street (11/9/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A motion

was made to suspend Rule 9 to hear from the following off-committee individuals: – Traffic Engineer Michael Garvin, Historical Commission Chairman, Clarence Darrow Richardson, Historical Commission member Mort Isaacson, and Conservation Commission Chairman William Doyle. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Garvin explained the two options that were being considered for the intersection – signal improvements or a roundabout. Either option would cost in excess of \$2 million. Councillor Vizard asked about the need for the entire lot and the public process. Mr. Garvin stated the entire lot would be needed. Vice President LeBlanc stated the Mayor indicated there would be a joint public meeting of the Mayor, City Council and Traffic Commission. Councillor Romard asked questions about the manner in which information would be disseminated to the public. Councillor Darcy spoke about the wetlands on the property site and the restrictions it would pose. Mr. Richardson stated the Historical Commission would like the house preserved either in its current position or elsewhere on the site, but would not support its demolition. Councillor Fowler spoke of the importance and impact on traffic in the area by fixing the intersection. Councillor McMenimen asked if the Mayor’s communication was a confidential memo and the ability of the Committee to discuss it in open session. Councillor McMenimen stated that although the intersection was in a particular ward, this issue had citywide implications and she recommended that a citizen input meeting be conducted, also. Councillor Vizard asked questions of Mr. Doyle concerning the environmental impacts of a project of this scope and size. Mr. Doyle stated that it would probably trigger a MEPA (Mass Environmental Policy Act) review. Mr. Doyle stated the disposition of the house could impact the environmental calculations. Councillor McLaughlin asked questions about the age of the house and its relative place with other historical properties in Waltham. Councillor Fowler had additional questions about the historical importance of the house, citing that the interior had been renovated and not been historically maintained. Councillor Rourke asked questions about the MEPA process and its duration. Mr. Doyle stated it could take between 6–12 months. Councillor Vizard moved to place the item back on the table. The motion to table was adopted on a voice vote.

7. President Marchese moved to take the docket item of the FY2017 City Council budget (1/11/2016) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Marchese moved to suspend Rule 9 to hear from someone off-committee– IT Director Donnie Aucoin. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Marchese initiated the discussion by asking Mr. Aucoin about

the differences in functionality, security, sharing of information and maintenance between the Apple product and the Microsoft product. Mr. Aucoin stated it would depend on the specific use intent of the Council. Councillor Logan spoke about the advantages of the Microsoft Surface Pro 4 device, including better compatibility as the City uses Microsoft for almost all of its applications. Councillors Fowler, Vidal, Vizard, McMenimen and Rourke all offered comments and asked questions of Mr. Aucoin. President Marchese stated he would work with the Purchasing Agent and IT Director to create the specifications for either the Apple or Microsoft device. Councillor Logan stated he was glad that the preference of each individual councillor would be honored. President Marchese moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion to table was adopted on a voice vote.

8. Councillor Fowler moved to take the docket item of the acquisition of 1 Balm Road (9/28/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler asked if the appraisal of the property had been performed or completed. Councillor Fowler moved to request the Mayor to provide a status of the appraisal and if it had been completed to send a copy to the Councillors. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion to table was adopted on a voice vote.
9. Councillor Giordano moved to adjourn. The motion was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 10:15pm.