

Brattleboro Town

Finance Committee

Minutes

March 19, 2013

4:15 PM

Hanna Cosman Mtg Rm

Present: Committee members Tim Cuthbertson, Michael Bosworth, John Wilmerding (4:30), Lisa Lorimer, Spoon Agave (chair)

Absent: Committee members Kathryn Turnas, Bob Rottenberg (on leave)

Others: Lawrin Crispe, Town Moderator; John Woodward

1. Call to order: 4:18 PM
2. Agenda: RTM discussion with Lawrin Crispe; conflict of interest
3. Approve minutes: none
4. Announcements
Cuthbertson: noted that, not including caucus electees, there are only about 10 new Town Meeting Members out of the 45 elected from districts
5. Discussion with Crispe on FC relationship to RTM
Concerning appointments: it is not clear that the Town Moderator has the authority to make appointments to the Finance Committee though this has been the practice within recent memory. Probably the result of practicality and nonspecific language in the Charter. Crispe recommends that the FC draw up a proposal to establish a procedure in which RTM would elect members at annual meeting. Could include authority for Moderator to make interim appointments. Could include a budget. Could include terms. General agreement that FC will write article for warning for next year's RTM.
6. Conflict of interest:
The committee discussed our general understanding of conflict of interest and committee members responsibilities when conflicts occur. There was agreement to use the definition in the Town Charter. All committee members agreed to recuse themselves when in conflict. It was also accepted that the committee can consult with recused members when appropriate.
7. Discussion on publicizing internal business not intended for publication.
Unauthorized and unexpected publicizing of random and individual comments not intended for

publicity, taken out of context and not incorporated into any official report may create distortions and inaccuracies of the committee's actual position.

Agreement that FC members will, when speaking publicly, employ tact, discretion and respect for the committee.

8. Discussion on decision-making
General agreement that members should be very clear when dissenting
9. Legitimizing topics
General agreement that new topics should be officially introduced as agenda items before related actions are taken.
10. Adjourn: 6:00 PM