

Minutes – Moderator’s and Advisory Committee’s Joint
Committee on Eminent Domain
Wednesday December 16, 2015, 7:00 pm

In attendance: Sandy Gadsby (Town Moderator); Pat Ward (Town Clerk); Sean Lynn-Jones (Chair, Advisory Committee); Craig Bolon; Clifford Brown; Catherine Donaher; Thomas Gallitano; Jean Stringham; Leonard Weiss; Christine Westphal.

Town Moderator Sandy Gadsby called the meeting to order. Mr. Gadsby provided a brief overview of the genesis of the Moderator’s and Advisory Committee’s Joint Committee on Eminent Domain (the “Committee”), explained the role of the Chair of the Committee, and reminded all members of the Committee that (1) the Open Meeting Law regulations applied to the Committee’s proceedings; (2) minutes of meetings should be kept, and should be generated by a secretary to be appointed by the Committee; and (3) the Committee may look to the Town of Brookline, including but not limited to the offices of the Town Counsel and the Town Clerk, for resources. Mr. Gadsby thereafter provided a brief overview of written materials provided to Committee members, including the warrant articles from recent Town Meetings, along with the *Study of a Proposed Eminent Domain Taking of the “Buffer” within Hancock Village*, dated November 6, 2015.

Mr. Gadsby called for the nomination of a Chair of the Committee. Craig Bolon was nominated, accepted the nomination, and was elected unanimously to serve as Chair of the Committee. Mr. Bolon called for nomination of a Secretary of the Committee. Tom Gallitano was nominated, accepted the nomination, and was elected unanimously to serve as Secretary of the Committee.

Town Clerk Pat Ward recommended that the Committee create a charge. Upon motion to adopt a charge, the Committee voted unanimously to adopt as its charge the language from the Resolution voted under Article 15 at the November 17, 2015 Town Meeting.

Mr. Bolon thereafter facilitated a discussion among all Committee members as to how the Committee should undertake its study of a possible taking by Eminent Domain of the two buffer strips behind Russett and Beverly Roads for use as publicly accessible recreation and park space. After discussion, it was decided that the Committee would commence its study by hearing from and directing questions to members of the senior staff from various Town Departments. The Committee also decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday January 6, 2016 at 7 pm, and thereafter on Wednesday January 20, 2016 at 7 pm.

For the remainder of the meeting, which adjourned at 8:30 pm, the Committee accepted comments from members of the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Gallitano, Committee Member and Secretary