

TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes

March 4, 2021 | *Meeting called to order by* Gary Beard at 7:03pm

In Attendance

Commissioners in Attendance: Gary Beard, Phil Cronan, Daniel Dunn

Others in Attendance: Ms. Sarah Clark, Ms. Debbie Romaya, Ms. Elaine Dove, and Alyssa Bussard, Commission Clerk

Approval of Minutes Of February 4, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Beard called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 4, 2021. Mr. Cronan made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Dunn. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Session

Ms. Debbie Romaya of 80 Ridge Road stated that she had desires to join multiple town meetings over the last year and she has had a lot of issues with the town website. She stated that she finds it hard to navigate and it is very confusing to the public. She stated that she believes that the town needs to do a better job in making it more user friendly. She believes that this is a time in which it is very convenient to be able to attend meetings from home for people with families and so on, but the public should not have to jump through hoops to attend these meetings.

Ms. Sarah Clark of 187 Haverford Street spoke to the commission about how she supports the efforts of the commission. She spoke regarding the town's email system and how some of her emails to elected officials and employees in the town have bounced back multiple times. Thus, she was unable to share questions or concerns with those who are paid to work for Hamden tax payers. The issues with the town email interferes with a citizen's ability and right to be active in their town government. The second issue she brought up was regarding the town's website. She stated that minutes, agendas and recordings from town commission meetings are not posted according to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and/or the Governor's executive order 7-B. These missed deadlines are not only violating the law but are also inhibiting the citizens from accessing information needed in order to participate in the town's government.

Ms. Dove of Santa Bay Avenue reiterated the above points about her emails to town officials being bounced back to her. She also agree that the website is not user friendly.

Old Business

Mr. Cronan stated that he has an update regarding the issues with town email. He stated on that February 17, 2021 they discussed the recommendations made by the committee at the meeting of the Charter Revision Commission. The point that all commissions should have town email addresses was brought up again. Mr. Beard will be attending the meeting on March 31, 2021 to discuss the importance of a town email for this commission.

Mr. Dunn told the commission how he spoke to the Fiscal Stability Committee regarding accessibility to the public in the sense of emails being blocked. He spoke about the management activities of those in town with the title as "Manager" and stated again that there is lack of start and finish dates for projects, etc. The members of the commission had asked for a log of the tracking regarding accountability of town employees and were told that there is no record in existence. He again spoke to the email system and stated that it is believed that the system in place in town is secure simply because emails are being blocked. As it has been now proven, the system is blocking emails that should not be blocked and it demonstrates that there may be bigger issues with the email system. Mr. Dunn believes that the members of the commission need to follow up with the Fiscal Stability Committee members. There are many issues at play here, including FOIA. Mr. Cronan reiterated that the members of the Technology Commission were told by town employees that there is nothing further than can be done regarding these issues and after much research Mr. Cronan and Mr. Dunn have found that the opposite is true.

New Business

Mr. Cronan stated that he was to have a meeting with Mr. Scott Jackson on February 19, 2021. The meeting was never scheduled by Mr. Johnson.

During the Fiscal Stability meeting on March 3, 2021 Mr. Jackson spoke regarding the suggestions put forth by the Technology Commission. He stated that town members need the ability to speak with town employees. He stated that they will work toward this moving forward.

Members of the committee will follow up with Mr. Jackson to schedule a new meeting which will be attended by Mr. Cronan and Mr. Dunn.

Members of the committee will continue to keep track of emails that are being bounced back and Mr. Dunn will again follow up regarding the syslog that he has yet to obtain from the town.

Mr. Dunn would like to form a sub-committee regarding government transparency in Hamden. He hopes that the public will take part in this as well. This was seconded by Mr. Cronan and everyone voted unanimously in favor.

Adjournment

Mr. Beard requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cronan made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Dunn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2021 at 7pm and will be held via Zoom. Agenda and log-in information is forthcoming.

These minutes were recorded and submitted by: Alyssa Bussard, Commission Clerk