



**COMMISSION ON THE USE OF PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES  
(CUPOP)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 28, 2022 at 5:30 pm via Webex**

**Meeting Video:** Due to recording issues, only the second half hour of the meeting was recorded. <https://youtu.be/PsNkAdcv9Vk>

**Present:**

**CUPOP Members:** Nicole Donzello-Chair, Patti McKeon-Secretary, Leslie Lyons, Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Todd Sasso (audio issues)

**Liaisons:** Deputy First Selectman Sheila McCreven,

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm.
2. **January Minutes:** Lor Ferrante Fernandes motioned to approve the minutes; Patti McKeon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
**Vote: Yes** - Nicole Donzello, Leslie Lyons, Patti McKeon, Lor Ferrante Fernandes
3. **Board of Selectmen (BOS) Updates:** Deputy First Selectman Sheila McCreven:

-reported the Capital and Operating Budget process is underway, noting that the public Preliminary Budget Hearing will take place on April 18 followed by the Annual Town Meeting (in May).

-detailed the process relating to the creation of new ordinances. It was noted that a potential ordinance must be approved by the BOS and Ordinance Committee in order to be brought to a public hearing. Following the hearing, the BOS would need to enact the ordinance.

-mentioned that a review of the many Boards and Commissions as well as Ad Hoc Committees will take place to ensure an efficient use of resources.

4. **CUPOP Chairman Report:** Chair Nicole Donzello reported on the topics below.

**Housing Opportunity Study Committee** - In mid-February Committee members, TPZ, and SCROGG met jointly. When creating the Housing plan, the Committee will take into consideration survey responses—the wants/needs of the community. The second survey deadline is March 4. To date, about 478 survey responses have been received.

SCROGG together with project consultants walked through Woodbridge to identify viable sites for affordable housing. The results will be available on the Town website if not already posted.

March 2 is the next Housing Opportunity Study Committee meeting. CUPOP Chair Donzello will bring forward to the committee Deputy First Selectman McCreven's question about when the committee will present to the BOS.

**In-Person Meetings** - In-person Town meetings may resume once the Town is in the "yellow" category for three consecutive weeks based on the State Department of Public Health color-coded COVID map. Woodbridge is currently in the "orange" status. Current State law allows virtual meetings through April 30.

**Blood Drive** - A blood drive, co-hosted by Nicole and the Woodbridge Human Services Dept., will be held at Beecher Road School on March 6. All 52 spots have been filled. Chair Donzello shared her thanks.

5. **Littering:** Discussion took place involving the need for an ordinance, anti-littering campaigns and signs. Chair Donzello noted that it would be the responsibility of CUPOP to explain why the State Statute does not address the problem.

Lor Ferrante Fernandes motioned for CUPOP to request that the Board of Selectmen beseech the Ordinance Committee to investigate adopting a Littering Ordinance. Leslie Lyons seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Vote: Yes** - Nicole Donzello, Leslie Lyons, Patti McKeon, Lor Ferrante Fernandes

6. **Dog Park- Guest Speaker:** Jeanette Glicksman noted that she recently became a Woodbridge Dog Park Coop Board Member and is the Coop's liaison to the Town. Jeanette noted that the Coop is in its third year of operation, now with new board members and officers. Legacy, financial soundness, day-to-day operations and board member commitments and planning were discussed. Gratitude was expressed for the use of publicly owned property.

7. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee Update:** Lor Ferrante Fernandes reported that earlier this week, the Committee had its first Mosaic reading. Presenter Reverend Antona Brent Smith led the Town book reading, *The 1619 Project* (by Nikole Hannah-Jones). The reading was a meaningful community event and a step toward educating and celebrating differences. It was noted that the Committee is moving forward to conduct a survey.

Additionally, the Committee's name has been officially changed to the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

8. **American Rescue Plan Act - Grove Update:** Patti McKeon noted the project is in its early stages, and it is premature to present anything at this time. The project will ultimately include ideas from the public.
9. **Next Meetings:** Monday, March 28, 2022
10. Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*