

Advisory Committee Meeting – May 2, 2016

The Advisory Committee met in the fifth floor School Committee Hearing Room on Monday, May 2nd. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Article 2

The Committee will take up Article 2 on May 19th at which time the proposed AFSCME contract – and perhaps other contracts – will be presented.

Article 12

With the understanding that the petitioner for Article 12 will not move the article at Town Meeting, the Advisory Committee has no recommendation under Article 12.

Article 11

The Committee reviewed the Board of Selectmen's motion under Article 11. Noting that the Zoning By-law Review Committee was reluctant to accept a referral of the subject matter of Article 11, as stipulated in the Advisory Committee's recommendation, the Committee moved to amend its recommendation by a vote of 18-0-0. A motion having been made and duly seconded, by a vote of 18-0-0, the Advisory Committee voted to support the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen:

To refer the subject matter of Article 11 to the Selectmen for appointment of a committee, with members to be chosen from the public, and appropriate Town Committees and Boards, having the necessary skills and expertise to evaluate the best way to provide tree protection in the Town, including whether this should be a zoning and/or general by-law amendment, and make a report back to the 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 20

By a vote of 13-3-3, the Advisory Committee voted in favor of Article 20, amended as follows:

Resolution Calling for an End to the United States' Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo against Cuba and Respect for Cuba's Sovereignty

WHEREAS, in 1960, the United States government imposed an economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. embargo against Cuba — what the Cubans call *el bloqueo*, “the blockade” — continues to inflict hardship on the men, women and children of Cuba by creating shortages of food, medicines and financial and trade opportunities; and

WHEREAS the 1996 Helms Burton Act extended the territorial application of the initial embargo to apply to foreign companies trading with Cuba; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced a new era of relations and agreed to re-establish diplomatic

relations; and

WHEREAS, Cuba and the United States re-opened their respective embassies in 2015; and

WHEREAS, despite the changes made by President Obama the embargo continues to be in place; and

WHEREAS, 191 countries voted at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2015 in favor of lifting the U.S. blockade against Cuba, with only two countries — the U.S. and Israel — opposed; and

WHEREAS the majority of the people of the United States believe this embargo is ineffective, ~~inhumane and in violation of international conventions~~; and

WHEREAS the blockade denies U.S. citizens access to Cuban medical technology such as the diabetes drug Heberpot-P, vaccines for meningitis B and hepatitis B, monoclonal antibodies for kidney transplants, as well as the only therapeutic vaccine in the world against advanced lung cancer, CIMAVAX-EGF; ~~and~~

~~WHEREAS the U.S. through its Agency for International Development (USAID) has supported and has not disavowed continuing embarrassing covert “regime change” operations;~~

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brookline Town Meeting calls for an immediate end to the United States’ economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba; ~~and with respect for Cuba’s sovereignty, an end to any and all illegal covert “regime change” operations and programs and affirmation thereof;~~ and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brookline Town Meeting supports the following Bills in Congress: 1) [the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015 \(HR664\)](#), introduced by Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC 1st) and Rep. James McGovern (D-MA 2nd), 2) [The Cuba Trade Act of 2015 \(HR3238\)](#), introduced by Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN 6th) and Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL 14th), and strongly encourages Representative Joseph P. Kennedy III to join the list of co-sponsors of both bills; and

27BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brookline Town Meetings supports the following Bills in the Senate: 1) [The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015 \(S299\)](#), introduced by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), language of which is identical to HR664, 2) [The Freedom to Export to Cuba Act \(S491\)](#), introduced by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), both of which are supported by our Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren;

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

cwb