

MINUTES

Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee
September 22, 2011 4:30-6:00 PM
Second Floor Conference Room

In Attendance: City Councilors – Allen Bennett (Chair), Mark Coen, Jan McClure, Keith Nyhan, Dan St. Hilaire, and Mayor Bouley; City Staff - Tom Aspell, City Manager; Brian LeBrun, Deputy City Manager Finance; Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager Development; and Bob McManus, OMB Director

Excused: City Councilors - Fred Keach, Candace White Bouchard

- 1) **Approval of August 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes:** Chair Allen Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM and requested a motion to approve the minutes of August 18, 2011. **Councilor Nyhan moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilor St. Hilaire. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.**
- 2) **Presentation on Conservation Easements** – Becky Hebert, City of Concord Planner and Councilor McClure made a presentation outlining the Conservation Commission and Forestry Program. They discussed the responsibilities of holding easements, including easement stewardship and the flow of funds. City Manager Aspell added some additional highlights on the history of revenues from the cell tower lease and acquisition of some conservation properties. Councilors asked questions about the easement enforcement and the scale of the easement violations. Councilor McClure discussed the benefits of protecting open space. She mentioned increased funding for open space as a Council priority and part of the Master Plan. She added that open space preserves the quality of life and there was a need to create more open space along the river corridor and at the outer boundaries of the City; that sprawl needs to be reined in; and open space helps make Concord an attractive place to live, recreate and work. She mentioned the need for a conservation focus – to go out and protect land. Councilors asked how much money was needed to monitor easements and open space and how it will be funded. Councilor Nyhan suggested funding enforcement through stewardship fees when easements are acquired. The options are finding new sources of revenues or using the Conservation Fund.
- 3) Councilor Coen had questions about the Golf Fund and how the Council sets rates each year. He mentioned that the special rates and promotions have not been approved by the Council and something should be included in the rate structure to allow for rate special. City Manager Aspell will review and bring something to Council for the November meeting.
- 4) **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Councilor St. Hilaire to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Coen, and a unanimous vote brought the meeting to an end at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian LeBrun
Deputy City Manager – Finance