



## Committee on Community Resources and the Northampton City Council

### Committee Members:

*Councilor Garrick Perry*

*Councilor Aline Davis*

*Councilor Laurie Loisel*

*Councilor Gwen Nabad*

### Meeting Minutes

**Date: January 26, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**

**Council Chambers**

**212 Main Street, Northampton, MA**

1. **Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call.** At 5:30 p.m. Acting Chair Garrick Perry convened the meeting. Present were Councilors Garrick Perry, Acting Chair; Aline Davis, Laurie Loisel and Gwen Nabad. Also present was Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.
2. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording**  
Councilor Perry announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded. He read aloud the jurisdiction of the Community Resources Committee.
3. **Election of Chair**  
Councilor Perry opened the floor to nominations for chair.

**Councilor Loisel nominated Councilor Perry.**

**Councilor Nabad nominated Councilor Perry.**

There being no other nominations, **Councilor Perry closed nominations.**

Councilor Perry said he is really excited about working with all of them. This will be his 3<sup>rd</sup> term on Community Resources. His first term, he chose this; it was his #1 choice. For him, it really speaks to why he ran for office. He is here to try to use his skills to help the community and to learn. What attracted him to this committee was that it has such a broad range of things to discuss. He thinks he's helped shape this committee into somewhat of a resource itself. They've created the groundwork to bring in experts and others from their community, and it is a resource for councilors themselves as well as the wider community. He is honored to be chair because he wants to continue this work and expand upon it. He thanked them, saying he was humbled.

Councilor Loisel said she nominated him because she respects his expertise; she didn't even realize this was his third term on this committee, so all the more reason. She is also excited to work with this group. She thanked him for being willing to serve.

Councilor Nabad said she nominated Councilor Perry because she knows him to be a go-getter. She respects his experience and dedication to social and economic issues and appreciates his commitment to the city and his creativity and dedication.

There was an interruption by a Zoom bomber.

Councilor Davis said she was ready to nominate him herself because of his enthusiasm and experience and her confidence in his ability to run these meetings and manage three new councilors who have been entrusted to him.

There being no further comments, **Councilor Perry called the nomination to a vote and councilors voted as follows by roll call:**

- Councilor Perry –Councilor Perry**
- Councilor Davis– Councilor Perry**
- Councilor Loisel - Councilor Perry**
- Councilor Nabad - Councilor Perry**

**The motion passed unanimously 4:0. Councilor Perry was elected by acclamation.**

**Election of Vice Chair**

Councilor Perry opened the floor to nominations.

Councilor Loisel asked if anyone wanted to be vice chair.

**Councilor Nabad expressed interest and nominated herself.**

Councilor Nabad said she would love to work in partnership with Councilor Perry. They have a lot of things in common, everything from music, the economy and what's going on downtown, to housing. She has a little experience with chairing as chair of the housing partnership and is willing to serve.

Councilor Perry said Councilor Nabad is an excellent choice for vice chair. They have known each other for a number of years since before his council service. She has tirelessly attended tons of meetings, especially during the pandemic and always spoken out for the community. He thinks she has a great perspective and is looking forward to doing this work with her.

There being no further comments, **Councilor Perry called the nomination to a vote and councilors voted as follows by roll call:**

- Councilor Davis– Councilor Nabad**
- Councilor Loisel - Councilor Nabad**
- Councilor Nabad - Councilor Nabad**
- Councilor Perry –Councilor Nabad**

**The motion passed unanimously 4:0. Councilor Nabad was elected by acclamation.**

**4. Public Comment**

There was no general public comment.

**5. Minutes of November 17, 2025 and December 15, 2025**

**Councilor Davis moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2025 and December 15, 2025. Councilor Loisel seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.**

**6. Updates and Announcements from Committee Members**

Councilor Nabad said she had a pressing announcement - St. John's is looking for volunteers for its winter shelter especially for the 5 to 7 p.m. shift and she thinks also for the 7:30 to 11:30 shift. She saw a post on Facebook earlier today. Anyone interested can find more information there.

**7. Set Meeting Schedule and Format**

Councilor Perry asked if the standard schedule consisting of the third Mondays of the month at 5:30 p.m. works for everyone. Members said yes but Councilor Loisel noted that the administrative assistant pointed out that the third Monday next month (February) is a holiday.

Councilors mentioned Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> as possible alternative meeting dates. Councilor Perry said he would send out a proposed date for the February meeting since he hadn't checked his calendar yet.

**8. Brainstorming**

Members discussed ideas for potential meeting topics. Councilor Davis said she knows Pardon Our Progress (POP) and the Downtown Northampton Association (DNA) have presented before but the presentation she saw was last March, so it is going on a year later.

Anything related to Senior Services is important to her, so she thought of Northampton Neighbors or checking in to see what's happening at the Senior Center. The Coolidge Museum is also a very cool place presently under-going renovation that it would be nice to learn more about. As a point of information, the administrative assistant told members Forbes Library Director Lisa Downing is scheduled to give a presentation on upcoming projects and initiatives to the whole council at the February 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

Councilor Perry added the subject of libraries in general.

Councilor Loisel said she loves the idea of Northampton Neighbors. The shelter on Industrial Drive would also be good to hear from and maybe Manna. She is very concerned about ICE so she was thinking about having LUCE or its local counterpart, Immigrant Solidarity Collective, which is doing work around immigration, justice, etc. She suggested the possibility of a meeting to talk about how to mobilize and protect people being targeted.

Councilor Nabad said she was thinking about Luce today. She went to an event put on by Indivisible. It is the biggest issue of the day.

She also would love to invite the shelters, people from St. John's, Manna and the Survival Center and would also love to hear from local tenant organizations, which could maybe talk about legislation they care about.

Councilor Nabad mentioned micro-businesses. She has noticed artists getting together and forming guilds and groups. For her, it was really confusing to know where to tap in when she first moved to Northampton. Pioneer

Valley Community Development Corp. has classes for small businesses and could give an update similar to the one by Vince Jackson on the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilor Loisel said a resident of Ward 3 who is a divinity school student reached out to her really upset about the tenor of political discussions in the city. She had the idea of featuring some kind of process to bring people in the community together. [Former Councilor] Alex Jarrett had talked about that and getting involved with something called Braver Angels. It would be great to bring them in to talk about their process and how people can get involved.

Councilor Perry added the Youth Commission and Smith Vocational, saying he wants to bring youth into this process and get inspiration from them. He also would like representatives from local tenant organizations, Smith College and the housing authority.

He also thought of looking to some of the recreational groups, like bike clubs and runner clubs, which do a lot of the heavy lifting on community projects like the pump track and Pickleball courts.

There is a lot of talk about schools; maybe some of the PTO's could come so they could have a space to organize as a community and express ideas.

He wants to continue the pattern of having state legislators regularly and the Division of Community Care (DCC). He likes building frameworks, he observed. The goal is to leave the next council some structure for doing things.

Councilor Davis mentioned the Pride Parade and LGBTQ community as important communities in Northampton.

Councilor Loisel suggested it might make sense to clump related organizations together, and others agreed.

Councilor Nabad said she loved the joint meeting with the Northampton Housing Partnership, which was extremely informative, and would love to do some more joint meetings.

Councilor Perry said he would like to have conversations here about the food truck ordinance. One thing that came out of ordinance review is that they needed more solid community engagement around that. He thinks this is a solid space for that.

Councilor Loisel said she has been reading a lot about tyranny and fascism and what it says is that the way to fight that is to build community. As Community Resources, "how can we help our community build community, strengthen our ties?"

She offered to let the shelter on Industrial Drive know they might get an invitation since she is going to be meeting with them.

Councilor Loisel said she would request that they consider the immigration issue a high priority item.

So noted, Councilor Perry said.

## 9. **New Business**

None.

**10. Adjourn.** There being no further business, **Councilor Davis moved to adjourn; Councilor Loisel seconded. The motion carried 4:0 by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.**

Prepared By:

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