

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISIONER'S MEETING

RECEIVED

June 4, 2018

Faulkner Meeting Room 204  
Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

JUL 18 2018

TOWN CLERK  
ACTON

Present: Katie Green, Joan Gardner, Peter Berry, Jon Benson, Janet Adachi, Town Manager Steven

Ledoux, Shannon Hurley, Recording Secretary

Ms. Green opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

**Citizens' Concerns**

Terra Frederichs - West Acton – Working a lot with people in 40Bs and being in the target zones. These zones were made up by the board and housing plan and approved by board without Town Meeting or vote. Stated it was not a law but just regulation. Wanted to see changes in process for 40Bs in terms of notification. Requested a review of the idea of target zones that favor people who are more vulnerable. Thanked Danny Factor helping coordinate a consensus with Kelley's Corner.

Prospect Street – Concern about last public forum, 53 River Street revitalization project. During presentation heard previous survey from Conway students asking what might be done with the property - Historic Preservation, conservation or housing. Housing was the lowest of any of the other options for design. Chair took informal survey again from the audience and housing was the lowest priority. Final recommendation was housing with historic preservation which were the two least popular decisions. Feel we are not being listened to. Why ask for opinions if not going to mean anything?

Ms. Green – My understanding the recommendation was related to moving forward with their project but not about the committee's choices to think about or move forward. Just for the students to be able to finish their project. All options are on the table and will be considered.

Mr. Berry - Next meeting June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at Audubon Hill Recreation offices and that is on agenda discusses to address concerns.

Debra Simes, Concord Road – Reminder that farmers market opens next Sunday.

**Chairman's Update/Operational Update**

Ms. Green – Thank members of Congregation who cleaned the pump house and thanked Corey and his department for their help. Planning Department has released a Housing and Economic Development survey that was emailed to all boards and committees. Can complete now until June 15<sup>th</sup>, encouraged to submit. "Fun Run" this Saturday, June 9th at Jones Field, fundraiser for the playground there. Acton Water District is offering a Senior Citizen Discount Program – If you qualify for the senior citizen tax exemption offered by the town you are eligible. Visit the Water District website for more information. Program for carpooling at Maple Street lot for train station is open and can apply. Takes 3 people to sign up, at least 2 people in car to park in the spots. No takers yet but hopefully people will see that that is a good way to park and increase parking. More information is on our website or you can call DPW.

Mr. Ledoux – Last week awarded bid for HVAC Memorial Library roof to Greenwood Industries Have ALG kick off meeting June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Waiting for ALG school committee representative. John Mangiaratti may be there and new school superintendent.

Ms. Frederichs – Noticed the RFP in docushare for grant and hiring of consultant seemed like the consultant was to convince us that we needed more mixed use. Wanted to see if survey was connected to RFP?

Ms. Green – It is connected to the grant. You can contact Planning Department with questions.

#### **Public Hearings and Appointments**

None.

#### **Selectmen Business**

None.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Berry held Consent Agenda Item 1 - Mr. Berry – In memo Steve Barrett requested we vote to extend useful life from 5-10 year for State Stature and vote at Town Meeting.

Board added the number 10 for maximum useful life years. Ms. Green moved to approve useful life of pumper truck at 10 years. Ms. Gardner seconded. All Ayes.

Ms. Green held Consent Agenda Item 7 - Debora Simes – Sent testimony to BOS email shell. Full testimonial can be found in Docushare.

Jim Snyder Grant- There is a future that is possible where we overcome the worst effects of climate change. Getting there requires rapid transition away from fossil fuels. Wanting to stop adding new housing into gas distribution system. In odd situation there are consequences for voting against these connections and there are consequences for voting for them. Would like these consequences discussed openly and on the record. Mentioned River Street, Harris Street and Putter Drive gas leaks, mentioned there is no information about if the gas company is fixing those. You can vote yes or no there are consequences both ways.

Terra Frederichs West Acton – Urge to pull River Street and tell gas company you are prepared to protect town using our land use authority to vote no. Might be cheaper for them to fix leak then take you to court.

Mr. Berry – It is actually 43-45 School Street that is the Habitat Project. Agreed that fossil fuels are a disaster and we are doing as much as they can do move to solar and electric. Explained that this home was transferred for free to Habitat for Humanity to build 2 new homes for low income families. Town could have said put heat pumps in the house and then the families could not afford to live there because of the higher cost.

Ms. Adachi – Very sympathetic but as a homeowner who is served by natural gas until I know heat pumps become a vital alternative. Doesn't think it is fair that natural gas owners have to switch to a more expensive alternative and would want to see a Town wide commitment effort to be more cost effective. Concern isn't just School Street but other people who are regular folks who want to get rid of reliance on oil thinking its cleaner and it turns out it may not be. There will need to be a mass of people from the town.

Ms. Gardener – Do we have any indication from gas company repairing leaks?

Mr. Ledoux – Corey might have that answer.

Mr. Benson – Sympathetic but realizes practicalities, the town needs a substantial whole to make a commitment to a green community.

Ms. Green – There is a lack of education and we have talked a lot about discouraging gas connections. Education options are more affordable and pleasant. Cost of natural gas now is cheaper and that will change over time. We are continuing to work on those issues. We stay with sustainability and regulations or bylaws to put in place to be similar to Boston or alternative ways to go about discouraging new connections. We just aren't there yet. Suggested vote to approve tonight but want to work to educate.

Ms. Adachi – One thought is to complete survey with Corey regarding the leaks. Are there any plans to repair it? We have this survey and know where all the problems are but would help us by repairing leaks.

Ms. Green- He has and does do that. Most have been fixed recently because we have a plan in place and Corey is working with them with.

Ms. Frederichs – Would the board consider delaying the vote until you have a schedule?

Ms. Green- I won't make that motion there is no benefit to it.

Mr. Snyder-Grant – To me the goal is to make consequences are clear and have open conversation. Agreed that Corey communicating with the gas company is beneficial. Heat Smart provides a lot of information and services for heat pumps and electric techniques. Stated that prices with electrical system and oil were comparable. Personal experience is happy with electrical system and heating system. More expensive than using gas but much better than using oil. Mentioned to make sure transition is early on and noticed right away.

Ms. Adachi moved to approve consent agenda items 2-11. Mr. Berry seconded. All Ayes

Ms. Adachi moved to adjourn. Ms. Green Seconded. All Ayes.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Hurley  
Shannon Hurley, Recording Secretary

Jon Benson  
Jon Benson, Clerk