



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2019

7:00 PM

ROOM 204, ACTON TOWN HALL, 472 MAIN STREET

This meeting was not recorded until 7:30 PM

Present: Joan Gardner, Jon Benson, Dean Charter, Peter J. Berry, David Martin, Assistant Town Manager Mark Hald

Absent:

I. Regular Business

1. Citizen Concerns

Jude Aronstein – Mothers Out Front will be in front of the Board for the Future Act regarding Gas Utilities

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update

Ms. Gardner-

Mr. Hald – nothing to report

II. New/Special Business

3. National Grid

Representing Nation Grid is Barbara Kelleher. Requesting to approve petition to install a 2 inch line from an existing main for new gas service.

Jim Snyder-Grant (did not identify himself to the Board) – reviewed with the Board the dangers of greenhouse gas with leaks and concern for climate change and get away from methane natural gas and unnecessary use against fossil fuels and a crime against the future and urges Board to deny the installation.

Debra Symes, Concord Road – endorses Jim's comment, and read from a prepared statement

Board members made several comments regarding the installation of alternative measures to provide heat and cooling, arguing that some houses cannot be retrofitted for heat pumps systems, also distressed that leaks are still ongoing. Mr. Berry moves to approve the gas main installation petition, Mr. Benson seconds. The Board voted 4-1 (Gardner). The motion passes.

4. Carbon Pricing

Representative Benson gave a power point presentation regarding carbon pricing and the proposed bill H2810. Mr. Berry noted that the town has met its goal to reduce carbon emissions by 25%.

Members of the public spoke in favor of the bill and support it. Mr. Benson moves that the Town Manager drafts a letter of support for the carbon pricing bill, Mr. Martin seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion passes.

5. LIP Application



Mark O'Hagan will be using a heat pump system with the building. Looking for the Board to do a formal vote of support and sign the LIP for submittal. Mr. O'Hagan will also consider installing EV stations at the location. Comments from the public included requiring air source heat pumps, and wiring for charging stations for electric vehicles. Mr. Benson moves to adopt the October 21, 2019 letter of support as drafted with typos corrected and the Chair to sign the LIP application, Mr. Martin seconds. Board voted 5-0. The motion passes.

6. Committee Membership Term Limits Discussion

Mr. Berry opened the discussion regarding a committee membership term limits in accordance to the VCC Committee Handbook, also presented was a draft guideline for new Selectmen members. VCC Chair Greg Hutchings looking for guidance from the Selectmen in terms of recruiting. The current trend is that the VCC does not actively recruit for Boards or Committees. Mr. Hutchings gets updated committee membership lists from the Town Clerk and vacant volunteer openings from the website and works with IT Department to remove committees that are fully staffed (from volunteer opportunities web page). Mr. Hutchings feels as though we should keep all committees having open positions listed to have a waiting list of applicants available. Looking for guidance from the Board to interview candidates and keep them on a waiting list when committee reappointments are due in June, and to look at members who have served 2 full terms to potentially allow new members to join in June (if current member does not want to seek re-appointment). Mr. Berry is in favor of implementing this as a BOS policy prior to the June reappointments. Mr. Berry moves to have VCC create a spreadsheet of committees that have term limits approaching by June to create a waiting list. Members of the public weighed in on several issues such as making a particular Board (Planning) an elected seat in order to have voter weigh on memberships. Other members of the public feels that we should be encouraging new members or applicants to not feel discouraged with prolonged memberships, and consider adding more associate members to committees, rotate voting members. Mr. Berry encourages the VCC to continue to authorize the VCC to advertise for committees who have vacancies and encourage people to apply and create a waiting list (roster) for future openings after a 2 term max has been reached.

7. MPO Designee for MPO Election

Mr. Berry moves the Chair to sign MPO form and to appoint Austin (Cyganiwicz) to attend to vote in place of the Chair, Mr. Martin seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

8. Authorize Town Manager to Secure Loans

Mr. Martin explained to the Board about the 2 phase build – need to the loan and then the second phase of the bonding. This would authorize the TM to begin the paperwork on the construction phase. This wouldn't pass if it doesn't pass at Town Meeting. Mr. Martin moves that the Town Manager is hereby authorized on behalf of the Applicant to file applications and execute agreements for grant and/or loan assistance as well as furnishing such information, data and documents pertaining to the applicant for a grant(s) and/or loan(s) as may be required; and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the Applicant in connection with this application; that the purpose of said loan(s), if



awarded, shall be to fund construction activities. That if said award is made the Applicant agrees to pay those costs which constitute the required Applicant's share of the projected cost. Mr. Charter seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

9. Support for the Maintenance of 4 Fire Stations

Mr. Benson moves to support the maintenance of 4 fire stations, Mr. Charter seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries. Mr. Berry commented that future Board members cannot be held and bound to the motion by the current Board. Mr. Martin doesn't want to be held by the motion if they have to close a station for renovations for a period of time. Mr. Benson read from a prepared motion:

With respect to the North Acton Fire Station project, the Board of Selectmen take the following position:

In conjunction with the construction of a new fire station on Harris Street in North Acton, we support the continued operation of the three existing fire stations in West Acton, South Acton, and Acton Center, assuring full-coverage throughout the Town with the operation of four fire stations.

In adopting this position, we acknowledge the current Board of Selectmen cannot bind the actions and decisions of future Boards.

III. Consent Items

Mr. Benson moves to approve consent items 10-17, Mr. Martin seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

Mr. Benson moves to adjourn, Mr. Martin seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- National Grid Gas Main Installation Application, National Grid
- Municipal Leader Carbon Pricing and Proposed Bill
- LIP Full Application, Grandview Acton
- Vote of Authorization
- MPO Ballot
- Motion Support of Operation of 4 Fire Stations
- Meeting Minutes, October 7, 2019
- Executive Session, October 7, 2019
- Committee Appointment, Alyssa Nichol
- Eagle Scout Court of Honor Email
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Tatiana Chicheva
- Accept Gift, Recreation Department – Freestyle Karate
- Accept Gift, Recreation Department – Acton Animal Hospital
- Accept Gift, Recreation Department – Miscellaneous Donors