



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 10, 2020

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: Jon Benson, Dean Charter, David Martin, Joan Gardner, Jim Snyder-Grant, Town Manager John S. Mangiaratti,

Absent: None

Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM via a virtual meeting with no Board members in physical attendance and broadcasted via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform before a motion to enter into executive session.

I. Regular Business

1. Citizen Concerns

None

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update

Mr. Benson noted two recent ZBA decisions for comprehensive permit for Powdermill Road development which puts the town over 10% 40B thresholds and Grandview project on 2A. First quarter FY21 real estate tax payments were at 91% through August 7.

Mr. Mangiaratti announced the North Acton Fire Station project went out to bid, and the bids were competitively priced. Mr. Mangiaratti reported to looking into filling key positions in town that have been vacant due to the March hiring freeze. Early in-person voting begins August 22nd, voting hours are 9-1 on Saturday and Sunday, and 8:30 - 5 pm M-F 8/24-28.

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted briefly elevated arsenic levels in the town's drinking water, and urged residents to contact Acton Water District for further information of additional questions.

Mr. Charter reported on the efforts of Mike Majors promoting the memory of Carroll Spinney and the tributes around Kelley's Corner and lawn signs installed around the town.

II. New/Special Business

3. Board to Call for a Special Town Meeting and Set Time, Date and Location

Mr. Mangiaratti announced the Special Town Meeting will take place on September 8, 2020 at 6:00 PM with the similar set-up of the Annual Town Meeting, with seating available both outside and inside.

Ms. Gardner moves to approve the Special Town Meeting on September 8th, 2020 beginning at 6:00 PM, Mr. Snyder-Grant seconds. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye



Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries.

4. Review Draft Articles for Special Town Meeting

There are 4 discussion articles, land acquisition on Piper Road the P+S for Piper Road was signed last week, amend town charter – title of Chief Executive, authorize payment in lieu of taxes – Acton Water District, and fund small business grant from free cash. Mr. Mangiaratti discussed the PILOT Agreement with the Acton Water District article and would require a presentation from a Board member. Mr. Benson discussed the small business grant program; the state would not allow the town to use the CARES Act money for small business grants. Mr. Benson stated the amount would be 175-176K available for approximately 44 businesses that qualify for the grant. Mr. Benson noted that not all members of the Board and Finance Committee would support the warrant article. **Ms. Gardner moves to have the article on the warrant, Mr. Charter seconds.**

Mr. Martin called roll;

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – nay

The Board voted 4-1. The motion carries.

Consent Articles 5-8 were agreed to be placed on the warrant.

5. Discussion of Town Funding of Small Business Grant Program

This topic was discussed during the review draft articles for special town meeting.

6. Establish the Open and Close of the Warrant for Non-Town Articles

Ms. Gardner moves to close the Town Meeting Warrant for non-town articles on Friday, August 14 at 12:00, Mr. Martin seconds. Mr. Martin called roll;

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

7. Board to Discuss 46 High Street Tree Removal

Due to objections to the proposed shade tree removals, and questions about the notification of the hearing held with the Planning Board and Tree Warden hearing on July 21, the Board will hold a new hearing/discussion on August 24th at the Board's regular scheduled meeting. The requested tree removal is to facilitate an entry road to an approved housing subdivision. Residents with views for and against the tree removal are urged to attend the hearing remotely and offer their comments.



8. Discuss PILOT Agreement Related to Acton Water District Solar Projects

Mr. Mangiaratti discussed the proposed PILOT agreement during the discussion on the review of draft articles for special town meeting agenda topic.

9. Discuss and Vote on Joint Support Letter for Residences at Kelley's Corner

Mr. Benson updated the Board regarding the request from the developer Steve Joncas requesting a letter of support for the proposed project at 446 Mass Ave in conjunction with the Acton Community Housing Corporation for his filing for state funding. ACHC approved the draft letter.

Ms. Gardner moves to authorize the Chair to sign a letter in support of the financial contributions towards the Residences at Kelley's Corner, Mr. Snyder-Grant seconds. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

10. Discuss and Vote on the Acton-Boxborough United Way Chalk the Walk Community Event Request for Use of Town Sidewalks

Mr. Mangiaratti presented the request from ABUW for permission to occupy the town right of way on the sidewalks in West Acton. Representing ABUW is Karen Collins, requesting 200 spaces running from Arlington Street to the Junior High with chalk.

Ms. Gardner moves to approve the use of town sidewalks, Mr. Charter seconds.

Mr. Martin called roll;

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

11. Request to Raise Flag to Commemorate India's Independence Day, August 15, 2020

Mr. Benson explained the ceremony that is requested to raise the Indian Flag to commemorate the 74th anniversary of India's Independence. Mr. Charter commented regarding the logistics and recommends in front of Town Hall to allow the run the national flag of a country in place of the Commonwealth flag at equal height, and proposed to only allow current national flags of sovereign nations once per year of each country as requested.

Mr. Charter moves the Board of Selectmen approve a policy that would allow the display of the current flag of a sovereign nation in place of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag in front of Town Hall with the following conditions:



- (1) The request must be made by an Acton resident and the flag must be provided by the person making the request**
- (2) This nation gets permission once annually and the flag will be flown for no more than one day**

Ms. Gardner seconds. Mr. Martin called roll;

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

12. Vote to Sign Resolution of Support for House H.2849/Senate S.1940, An Act for Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy [FUTURE]

Mr. Snyder-Grant commented to the Board regarding the Green Advisory Board's stand on the FUTURE Act and submitting a letter in support of the bill to the House and Senate. Mother's Out Front had brought this bill to the Green Advisory Board originally looking for support.

Ms. Gardner moves to signing off the letter of support, Mr. Charter seconds. MR. Martin called roll;

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries.

13. Board to Accept Donation of Service Dog from Puppies Behind Bars

Ms. Gardner moves to accept the Service Dog from Puppies Behind Bars, Mr. Martin seconds. Mr. Martin called roll;

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries.

14. Board to Approve Outdoor Dining Application, Teamwork's d/b/a Overtime Bar and Grill, 30 Great Road

Ms. Gardner moves to approve the outdoor seating application for Teamworks d/b/a Overtime Bar and Grill, Mr. Benson seconds. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye



Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries.

III. Consent Items

Ms. Gardner moves to approve consent items 15-19

Mr. Martin called roll;

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Agenda, August 10, 2020
- Overview of Planning for the September Town Meeting
- Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant
- 46 High Street Tree Removal Documents and Letters
- Acton Community Housing Corporation Memos and Draft Letter of Support, Residences at Kelley's Corner
- Acton-Boxborough United Way Memo for Request of Sidewalk Use on September 21-27, August 5, 2020
- Email for Request to Raise Indian Flag to Commemorate India's Independence Day on August 15, 2020
- Town of Acton FUTURE Act Resolution
- Memo to Accept Donation of Service Dog, Acton Police Department, August 5, 2020
- Outdoor Seating Application, Teamworks d/b/a Overtime Bar
- Meeting Minutes
- Accept Gift Memo, Council on Aging, July 28, 2020
- Accept Gift Memo, Recreation Department, July 24, 2020
- Accept Gift Memo, Acton Police Department, August 3, 2020