



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 19, 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.

I. Regular Business

1. Citizen Concerns

Alissa Nicol, School Street –request the Board opine on the decision regarding the AB School mascot, concerned about the community response to the school committee's discussion of changing the school mascot

Corey Salo – comment about Board's response to the racism discussion at the last Board meeting

Kyra Wilson Cook, School Street – expressed disappointment that the Board declined to draft a statement regarding racism in Acton at the last meeting and the tone of the conversation as a member of the Board dismissed that racism exists in Acton.

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – agrees with previous speakers, encourages Board to read books suggested by Black Lives for Racial Justice

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/ Member Minutes

Mr. Benson thanked the Town Manager, Lisa Tomyl, Theresa O'Leary and Austin Cyganiewicz for the NARA Sports Pavilion Ribbon Cutting and the North Acton Fire Station Groundbreaking Ceremony. Received many thank-yous from a number of Small Business Grant recipients as checks went out last week. Met with Wes Fowlks, Chair of the Boxborough Select Board who authored Boxborough's statement on racial disparity.

Mr. Mangiaratti noted two ceremonies last week – a ribbon cutting for the NARA Park Picnic Pavilion accessible restroom wing, and a Ground breaking for the North Acton Fire Station.

Early voting began 10/17 with 119 voters, 114 on 10/18, and 196 today. There were 500 early voters for the Primary, and expect to surpass that by 10/30. Mail in ballots applications were 9843, and 5191 already returned. There were 28 participants for the Drive Up Window Public Forum. A town wide survey will be completed and available shortly to gauge community interest. Another public forum is scheduled for 12/10.



Staff met with MassDOT regarding a Traffic Control Agreement – the purpose of the agreement is to assure that the ways within and adjacent to the project will be operated and maintained by the municipality – failure on any part of any municipality to execute and fulfill the terms of the agreement may disqualify from participation in future Safety Improvement projects.

There will be a virtual public forum 11/5 regarding the 19-21 Maple Street Lot Feasibility Study to review existing conditions on the site and offer comments on potential improvements

II. New/Special Business

3. Reconsideration of Board's Directive for the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission to Draft a Statement for the Board on Racial Disparity for the Board's Consideration

The board is working on a statement acknowledging racial disparity and hopefully will be completed and satisfactory to all 5 Board members for their November 2nd meeting.

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved that the Board rescind it's October 5th statements and for the DEIC to draft a statement on racial disparity for the Board's consideration, seconded by Ms. Gardner. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – nay

The Board voted 4-1, the motion carried

4. COVID-19 Response Updates

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board that there are 6 active COVID-19 cases in Town – down from 8 over the weekend. He urges all residents to use the Acton Board of Health as a primary source for COVID information. The Memorial Library has re-opened on an appointments only basis, and can be made on the Acton Memorial Library online calendar. Town Hall will be re-opening to the public sometime after the November 3rd elections.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee is looking to hold a virtual meeting – **Ms. Gardner moved to give the WRAC the ability to meet virtually, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant. 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 carried



5. [CARES Act Reimbursement Request from Acton-Boxborough Regional School District and Minuteman High School](#)

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the ABRSD and Minuteman High School are looking to be sub-recipients of the Town's CARES Act funding for \$468K for their school districts after all their previous reimbursement funding has been exhausted. Mr. Mangiaratti is working with the Finance Department and will be requesting to put in for the full amount of the remaining balance with the state (1.9 million), and meeting with both Superintendents to discuss drafting a MOU regarding the monetary distribution.

6. [WR Grace Presentation for Solar Project and Potential Reuse Options](#)

David Cantrell from WR Grace provided the Board with an update on Grace's intentions for its vacant site in South Acton. Grace will not bring operations back to the Acton site. Grace has met all remediation obligations for the soil cleanup at the site. Grace will continue monitoring of ground water contamination for the foreseeable future. The site consists of approximately 130 acres on the south side of train tracks and approximately 50 acres on the north side. The current plan is to lease 30 acres on the south side to a solar developer. Zoning and permitting from the Town will be required.

7. [Acton Dog Park Committee Presentation and Recommendation for Dog Park Location](#)

The Board heard a presentation from the Acton Dog Park Committee of four possible sites for a Town dog park. Following ADPC chair Tom Gillispie's presentation, the Board rejected for various reasons sites at Morrison Farm, 70 Quarry Road in NARA Park and the School Street Fields adjacent to Route 2. The Board focused on the 348 and 352 Main Street site next to the Acton Housing Authority's planned 36 unit senior affordable and disabled housing development. Following discussion by Board members, the Board took extensive comments from residents and the Isaac Davis Way abutters. The Board deferred a decision on the Main Street site until its meeting on November 2 to allow for the Town to attempt reaching accommodations with the Isaac Davis Way neighbors.

III. Consent Items

Ms. Gardner moved to approve consent items 8-9, seconded by Mr. Charter. 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 carried

Ms. Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant. 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 carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM

Documents Used

- Agenda, October 19, 2020
- Recommendation for Committee Appointment, Catherine Usoff
- Gift Memo, Recreation Department Dated October 13, 20202