



SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 4, 2021

7:30 PM

Town Hall Room 204 with In-Person and Virtual Public Participation

Present: David Martin, Jim Snyder-Grant, Fran Arsenault, Town Manager John S. Mangiaratti, and Assistant Town Manager Mark Hald

Absent: None

Remote: Himaja Nagireddy

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

I. Regular Business

1. Resident Concerns

Alissa Nicol, South Acton – pleased with speed monitors installed on speed limit signs around town; expressed appreciation for the traffic calming efforts; requested installation of additional speed monitors; expressed concern regarding cars passing busses while flashing lights in school zones - requests installation of video monitors, if permitted, to record violations.

Corinne Hogseth, Seminole Road– questioned the meeting's start time of 7:30 PM and for how long the change of start time will last. Mr. Martin stated it was only through the fall season due to scheduling conflicts with one of the Members.

Franny Osman, Half Moon Hill – would like the IT Department to change the format of virtual participation from “webinar” to “meeting” to provide attendees with other participant information.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Charter acknowledged the passing of long-time Town Moderator Don MacKenzie, and will be missed. Would like to have a future agenda item to discuss the memorial for Caroll Spinney and discuss changing the name of the road near Kelley's Corner named “Community Way” to “Caroll Spinney Way.”

Mr. Mangiaratti provided update that the North Acton Fire Station project is progressing well and is expected to be completed before the winter, and further requested Board Members to write a letter to the Board Members 50 years in the future to place in the time capsule being installed at the ribbon cutting ceremony. The COVID internal working group continues to meet weekly, and also with school officials on COVID-19 cases. As of October 4, 2021 there are 27 people in isolation for total of 1151 cases.

II. Public Hearings



3. 7:40 PM Site Plan Special Permit #08/04/2021-481, 9 School Street (continued from September 20, 2021)

Mr. Martin read the public hearing notice. The applicant has requested a continuation to November 1, 2021 at 8:00 PM. **Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to continue the hearing to November 1, 2021 at 8:00 PM and voted unanimously by roll call vote.**

III. New/Special Business

4. Authorize Town Manager to Sign Deed and Closing Documents for 26 Carlisle Road and Authorize Town Manager to Execute Regulatory Agreement and Other Documents Related to the Closing of 446 Massachusetts Avenue, Tavernier Place, Affordable Housing Project

Mr. Snyder-Grant requests to change reference of the ACHC to Town of Acton in the document for 446 Mass Ave. **Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to Execute Regulatory Agreement and Other Documents Related to the Closing of 446 Massachusetts Avenue, Tavernier Place, Affordable Housing Project and was voted unanimously by roll call vote.**

Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault that certain land with all buildings and improvements thereon located at 26 Carlisle Road, shown as “Lot 15” (the “Property”) on that certain plan entitled “Plan of Land, Acton, Mass.” Dated July 11, 1953, by MacCarthy Engineering Services, Inc., Natick, Mass., recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds as Plan Number 1 of 1954, recorded in Book 8196, Page End (the “Plan”)

(a) to approve the Quitclaim Deed for the property from the Town to Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the form presented to the Board on October 4, 2021; and
(b) to authorize the Town Manager to take all actions on behalf of the Town that are reasonably necessary or advisable, in the judgment of the Town Manager, to complete the sale of the property, including without limitation signing the Quitclaim Deed, closing forms, documents and settlement statements, and to take all actions and execute all documents that are reasonably necessary or advisable, in the judgement of the Town Manager, to effectuate the sale of the Property and voted unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Presentation of Recommendations by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission

Diane Randolph Jones and Leela Ramachandran presented the final report and recommendations of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission (“DEIC”). Key recommendations were to create an incident reporting system, hire a Diversity Officer, make the DEIC a permanent Commission, and improve diversity, equity and inclusion training. Mr. Snyder-Grant asked if the committee members had any guidance on when a person should use the incident reporting system and when they should call the Police Department. Ms. Ramachandran commented as a personal response that it depends on how or if the individual feels comfortable making a



report. Ms. Randolph Jones commented that the reporting system should be similar to that of a college student reporting an incident to a Resident Assistant to advocate for the victim.

Mr. Charter asked what will happen with the report and the future of the Commission as the Commission is due to sunset at the next Select Board meeting. Mr. Charter feels that the DEIC should continue for a few more months to allow for some public input and possibly considering the DEIC to be a permanent committee. Mr. Charter expressed concern about the racial quota for membership to any Town board or committee. Ms. Arsenault thanked the Commission for its hard work and would like to see the Commission become a permanent standing commission. Ms. Nagireddy would like to see the Town support the Commission.

Leo Fochtman, Wright Terrace – commented on the Zoom bombing incidents against the School Committee; feels that there needs to be more Town discussions on the topic of racism; supports the recommendations from the DEIC; submitted a written statement that is included in the Select Board meeting folder in Docushare.

Corinne Hogseth, Seminole Road – commented on the DEIC surveys that there was no mention about making the commission a permanent committee and feels that this needs to be further discussed in public conversations.

Charlie Kadlec, Paul Revere Road – asked what the level of authority and decision making capacity is expected of the Diversity Officer.

Ann Chang, South Acton – has seen the town become more diverse and feels that the Diversity Officer should be bilingual and also questioned what the requirement was for having seven years' experience of related work. Ms. Chang also asked if the Diversity Officer would be part of the Human Resource Department. Feels that there should be a public forum to discuss the report and present a job description of the Diversity Officer at a public meeting.

Nijan Datar, Wyndcliff Drive – does not support the position of a Diversity Officer or the report from the DEIC and submitted a written statement that is included in the Select Board meeting folder in Docushare.

Alissa Nicol, South Acton – thanked the DEIC for its report and submitted a written statement that is included in the Select Board meeting folder in Docushare.

Danny Factor, Davis Road – supports the recommendations of the DEIC.

Janet Adachi, Simon Hapgood Lane – recommends the Select Board extend the existence of the DEIC and make it a permanent committee; suggests hiring a diversity consultant to perform an analysis of the Town from a diversity perspective that would lead to hiring a Diversity Officer; questioned how many surrounding towns have hired a Diversity Officer, clarify what "immigrant" refers to, and suggests holding a community conversation

Franny Osman, Half Moon Hill – feels the Diversity Officer should report to the Human Resource Office or Town Manager's Office.

Matt Liebman, Tuttle Drive – concerned about the percentage of incidents that occurred in Acton; supports the incident reporting system and continuation of the committee.



Stella Ko, Guswood Road – thanked the DEIC for its work on the report and supports all the recommendations.

Xingpeng (Simon) Li – questioned how many incidents in the past year were reported to DEIC, Mr. Martin replied that a very small number of people reported incidents to the DEIC, resulting in the need for an incident reporting system. Mr. Li expressed frustration with the membership racial quota requirements specifically 70% members be black or immigrant and felt the Asian population was essentially being excluded
Linda Vieira, North Acton – supports the continuation of the DEIC and reporting system.

Terra, West Acton – supports the DEIC and for people to feel comfortable to report incidents to the DEIC, and supports the continuation of the DEIC as a permanent committee.

Mr. Martin proposes to vote to allow the Town Manager to continue to study the position and responsibility of the Diversity Officer and how they would fit in with the Town.

Mr. Martin asked if the Board whether it would like him to draft a new charge of the DEIC as the current charge expires at the next meeting. This would be voted upon at a future Select Board meeting. **Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to have the Town Manager continue the study of the Diversity Officer as outlined at Town Meeting and voted unanimously by roll call vote.**

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Mr. Charter to extend the current term of the DEIC while the Board considers a new charter and voted unanimously by roll call vote.

6. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Discussion

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board with public recommendations and priorities of the Board, and alignment with Select Board long and short term goals. The Board reviewed the 46 fund requests as listed in the Town Managers memo. During the discussion, the Board added two additional items to their working list for discussion: a pooled Acton-Boxborough Regional School District request of one lump sum of \$2 million in order to let the schools recommend their priorities; and a \$450,000 request from the Transportation Advisory Committee for improving the fixed route transit system by replacing two leased vans with two smaller electric vans, and hiring one additional driver to bring flexibility to the fixed route. The Town Manager submitted a list of preliminary recommendations for 19 of the funding requests. The manager explained that for some projects, amounts listed were less than in the longer list. In most cases, this was NOT because the over-all task was reduced in cost, but instead because the Manager was recommending using less from the ARPA funds in order to fund additional ARPA projects. The top priority request of allocation of \$400,000 for revenue replacement was previously approved at the September 20, 2021 Select Board meeting and also supported by the Finance Committee. The Board did not accept public comment during its review of funding requests. The Board recorded the number of board members showing a thumbs up as a preliminary input for each funding request as shown in the first column of this document: <http://doc.acton->



ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-78867. Some but not all items were the subject of discussion before preliminary input was gathered. Final decisions on funding requests will be made at the 10/18 meeting.

IV. Consent Items

Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant to approve consent items 7-16 and voted unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Arsenault and voted unanimously by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 PM

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Agenda, October 4, 2021
- Site Plan Special Permit Application #08/04/2021-481, 9 School Street
- Deed and Closing Documents for 26 Carlisle Road
- Affordable Housing Restriction, 446 Massachusetts Avenue
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission Report Dated September 23, 2021
- Memo from Town Manager Regarding ARPA Process and Preliminary Recommendations Dated September 30, 2021
- Meeting Minutes, September 13, and 24, 2021
- Accept Gift Memo, Recreation Department for \$80 from Anonymous Dated September 23, 2021
- Accept Gift Memo from Recreation Department for \$400 from Anonymous Dated September 27, 2021
- Accept Gift Memo from Natural Resources for \$800 from Anna Campbell Dated September 21, 2021
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Congregation Beth Elohim, October 17, 2021
- Statement from Leo Fochtman
- Statement from Nijan Datar
- Recommendations from Finance Committee for ARPA funding priorities
- Recommendations from Transportation Advisory Committee for ARPA funding priorities
- Recommendations from Commission on Disabilities for ARPA funding priorities
- Spreadsheet to record the number of Board member hand raisings for each ARPA funding item.