



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2023

7:00 PM

ACTON TOWN HALL, ROOM 204
472 MAIN STREET

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant, Fran Arsenault, Dean Charter, David Martin
Dean Charter arrived 7:48PM
Remote Participation: Alissa Nicol

I. Regular Business

1. Resident Concerns

Srinivas Anatha, 47 Canterbury Road – concerned about a playground in the neighborhood with a broken water fountain that usually maintained by the town and was told that it would be repaired the next fiscal year and is requesting it to be replaced and repaired. The ground is poorly maintained by the town with poor drainage, trash left by visitors, requesting a solution to the issue.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minute

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted the Town Manager was not present due to attending a conference out of state. A formal ceremony for the opening of Gardner Field in West Acton last Friday, the new play area in the town-owned greenspace made possible in part by Community Preservation funds and ARPA funds, and money from state and federal partners, and Friends of Gardner Field. Oktoberfest has been rescheduled for Saturday October 14. On 10/4 afternoon there will be a test alert from the federal Integrated public alert warning system (IPAWS), and will be hold office hours on 10/8 between 3 and 4 at the Memorial Library. 10/9 is Columbus Day, the Select Board voted that Acton will recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, and are working via public forums, future agenda items and dialogs with local indigenous leaders in the next year before voting to make a permanent change. Ms. Arsenault noted the Select Board will be participating with the South Acton Vision at the Memorial Library from 6-8 on 10/3. Ms. Nicol mentioned the OML training recording is available on Acton TV channel and You Tube. Health Division has COVID rapid tests available at Town Hall.

II. Public Hearing

3. 7:10 PM. Request to Install Guy Wire Infrastructure at Pole #16/2 at 32-34 Elm Street, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

Mr. Snyder-Grant read the public hearing notice. Representing Eversource is Chris Cosby. Ms. Cosby noted that a hip guy provides support to the pole and currently being supported by a tree guy, since here will be removed. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve a request from Eversource for installing a hip guy wire infrastructure at ole #16/2 at 32-34 Elm Street and approved 4-0 by roll call vote.**

III. New/Special Business

4. Discuss Committee Support and Volunteer Recruitment

Mr. Snyder-Grant lead the discussion regarding ideas on how to generate more interest in encouraging more volunteers to join committees, and how committees can get the word out about the work they do.

Mr. Martin clarified the communications between committees and liaisons are effective. The liaison should encourage committees to present to the Board whenever they reach a milestone. Ms. Arsenault suggested that the committee handbook get updated, encourage Boards and committees come to Select Board meetings to describe their purpose, and conduct videos to explain the committee charge and purpose. Ms. Nicol noted that she had proposed a short term goal related to this topic that did not make the final cut and appreciates the discussion, valuable information on how committee members got their start and to sign up, supports a special meeting of committee chairs, provide updates during member minutes supplying ongoing projects of boards and committees, consider each video created by Acton TV on each Committee web page, committee members attending fairs and festivals to conduct tabling. Mr. Martin suggested an annual recruitment workshop. Ms. Nicol suggest tabling at existing events and work up to include in next year Select Board goals.

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – commented that the committees don't feel that they can get on a Select Board agenda if the liaison is unable to request a placeholder on a Select Board agenda.

Ms. Nicol suggests posting a one page outlining the responsibilities as liaison to Boards and Committees.

Fang Yang, member of the Volunteer Coordinating Committee noted that he agrees with the ideas of recruitment, and noted they are at a minimum of quorum, and have not had time to prepare flyers at Town Meeting, and School Committee meetings looking to recruit new volunteers. Ms. Nicol suggested keeping a spreadsheet on how interviewees heard about the Board or Committee they are interviewing for.

Board Members were in general agreement about adding updates as liaison to their Boards and Committees as part of their member minutes, conduct tabling at general events, ask current committee members how they found out about the committee they are a member of. Ms. Arsenault will collaborate 1 or 2 questions for gathering the information for the VCC to question volunteer candidates, Mr. Snyder-Grant will work with Acton TV to put committee videos on each webpage. Mr. Charter suggested updating the volunteer committee handbook. Mr. Martin offered to draft a liaison responsibility list.

5. Review Proposed Conservation Restriction for Spring Hill Farm, 328 Pope Road
David Hardt and Susan Mitchel-Hart introduced the CR of a 2.5 acre parcel to the rear of their property that has potential for development that includes uplands, wetlands, woodlands, and rock fields and the last remnant of a colonial farm and has been used as a horse farm up to 10 years ago, and is also adjacent to Camp Acton, woodlands, then Spring Hill and Robbins Hill. The purpose of the CR is to preserve the land. Mr. Hardt noted that Acton Conservation Trust will be in charge of maintaining the property, and that a separate sub-committee was set up to avoid a conflict of interest in the property since both property owners are members of ACT.

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – requested Select Board explain what the CR means as far as protecting from development and donating their land and to let the public know this information

Joe Cooney, Acton Conservation Trust explained that any privately-owned lots that abut conservation land can apply for a conservation restriction to protect wildlife and property in perpetuity.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to approve the proposed conservation restriction for Spring Hill Farm at 328 Pope Road provided the word “character” is changed to the word landscaping in the document, and amended to include held by Acton Conservation Trust in perpetuity and approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

IV. Consent Items

Mr. Martin held consent item 7. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve consent items 6 and 8-15 and approved 5-0 by roll call vote.** Mr. Martin noted that consent item 7 did not list the full date of the event and noted the event date was October 18, 2023. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by MS. Arsenault to approve consent item 7 and approved 5-0 by roll call vote.**

V. Meeting Evaluation

Mr. Snyder-Grant felt at loss on agreements on parts of it and smooth meeting.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Charter moved to enter into executive session to discuss the purchase, exchange or value of real property at 549 Main Street under purpose 6 as an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and approved 5-0 by roll call vote.