



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2025
6:00 PM
ACTON TOWN HALL, ROOM 204
472 MAIN STREET

Present: Fran Arsenault, Dean Charter, Alissa Nicol, David Martin, Jim Snyder-Grant

Additional Attendees: Town Manager John Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager Thom Begin, Executive Assistant Lisa Tomyl

I. Regular Business

1. Resident Concerns

Terra, West Acton – questioned the Acton Police involvement with Federal Agencies responding to incidents involving other federal agencies, requests the Select Board look into the incident.

Najir Ditar, Windcliff Drive – questioned about article 7 to restudy the DPW building, concerned about bringing it back to Town Meeting, encourages to push back on the school committee budget to not require another override which may have a better chance to pass at a future town meeting.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minute

Ms. Arsenault noted a Community Forum will be held in room 204 regarding immigration policies, Chief Cogan will be in attendance and felt that Town Meeting was successful. Mr. Mangiaratti noted the attendance was down from last year, thanked town staff for their involvement and work. Published a notice on roadwork in Kelley's Corner that will be closing Community Lane from Main Street to Mass Ave which will be closed for a week but businesses will be open and there will be access for customers. Ms. Nicol announced the WRAC is hosting a public workshop on stormwater management with a preview at the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow at 7:30 in room 204, and the public workshop on May 29th in room 204. DPW is hosting a polystyrene recycle day on May 17th and Hazardous Waste Day on June 21st; town staff has received guidelines if approached by federal agencies working for ICE. Mr. Snyder-Grant commented on recent ICE incidents in town, and a recent rally held in front of Town Hall.

II. Public Hearings

3. 7:10 PM SPSP #3/19/2025-493, 60 Powdermill Road (rescheduled to June 16, 2025 at 7:10 PM)) Applicant rescheduled to June 16, 2025 at 7:10 PM

Mr. Martin moved, seconded Ms. Nicol to continue the hearing to June 16, 2025 at 7:10 PM without deliberation and approved

4. 7:15 PM Livery Service License, Anu's Transportation, 120 Parker Street, Unit 14, Acton MA

Applicant is Anu requesting a livery license. **Ms. Nicol moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve a livery license for Anu's Transportation at 120 Parker Street , Unit 14 and approved unanimously 5-0.**

III. New/Special Business

5. Approve Fossil Fuel Free Bylaw Waiver Application, Sri Chaitanya Somanchi, 2 Betty Lane

Mr. Mangiaratti noted this is the first official application before the Board. Building Department is looking for direction on how to proceed. Mr. Snyder-Grant recommends not approving the fossil fuel bylaw waiver for the purpose of cultural cooking alternatives. Mr. Martin agrees that there is cookware that will adequately cook food with an induction cooktop and supports not granting the waiver. Ms. Nicol suggests speaking with the applicant and if they were informed about the Board discussing, Mr. Mangiaratti was not sure if they were aware of the discussion at this meeting. Mr. Snyder-Grant suggests delaying discussion until May 19th to make his case and then make a vote on the waiver request.

6. Announce Public Listening Session for Select Board Goal Setting

Mr. Mangiaratti noted a date set for annual goal setting meeting and invite public input and comments with only 2 more Board meeting before the workshop on June 9th . Mr. Martin suggests May 19th and June 2nd.

7. Joint Meeting with Planning Board - Approve Housing Production Plan

Kristen Guichard presented the proposed Housing Productive Plan. JM Goldson produced the HPP draft plan and presentation. Mr. Snyder-Grant questioned about list of comments made by public and summarized concerns and requested if concerns are reflected in the plan, questioned about a term “intermunicipal” meeting and questioned if it should be intramunicipal, questioned about obligations for more affordable housing since the town is at the 10% threshold for safe harbor status,

Ms. Nicol commented about public comment period while in the middle of Town Meeting and elections and suggested extending the public comment period, incorporating comments previously submitted, like inclusion to expand the ACHC capital improvement program

Mr. Martin didn't feel opening up the public comment period for another week, felt the public forums were well attended, Ms. Nicol feels sending out a news flash would give time for more public comment given the timing for May 19th. Board members will continue discussion and public forum for May 19th.

The Boards agreed to extend the public comment period by a week.

8. Vote to Approve the Issuance of \$6,150,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2025 as More Particularly Described in the Document Prepared by Bond Counsel Distributed to the Board

Mr. Mangiaratti noted bond rating reaffirmed and reminds AAA for the bonding of several projects in town. Our Treasurer Collector has accepted a new position closer to home and will be her last bond paperwork. Ms. Fleckner met with Standard + Poor last Friday and were notified the AAA rating with a 3.517% interest rate.

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol as read from the votes of the Select Board document (included with minutes) and approved 5-0

9. Update on Fire Department Pilot Program and Introduction of Next Phase

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board on the progress of the Fire Department Pilot program explaining the current staffing for the 2 stations and noting a better response for personnel for calls, with the main purpose of staffing in groups to be able to staff equipment and train more efficiently and that by increasing staffing at the 2 stations assists with staff moral and better communication. Station 2 was not built to hold 5 staff, so on May 18th the department will be transitioning to a 3-station pilot program with 4 employees at North Acton station 4, and 3 employees at West Acton, with coverage comparable to the current 2 station coverage for about 3 months and then re-evaluate. Encourages the public to take the online survey, with a future public forum to discuss the results to be held in June. Ms. Nicol commented that the pilot is not to evaluate whether the North station was not needed to be built, rather the North station was a critical need for many years.

10. Review of Town Meeting Results

Mr. Mangiaratti published a summary on results on the town meeting webpage. Ms. Nicol requested an update on article 6A Town Hall HVAC article, and the statement read communicating the Board's recommendation on article 40 on what the Board discussed for that article.

Mr. Mangiaratti noted article 6A is at approximately 25% design and the cost estimate was based on that information. The borrowing authorization was proposed to be funded from 60-70% general fund and remaining from the energy efficiency fund to be requested at a future meeting to keep the project moving.

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted the lack of a presentation and getting the information out about article 6A, also noting misinformation comments made at town meeting, requested to plan a public hearing on the Hayward and Main Street intersection, Mr. Martin suggested that any article regarding borrowing with a larger price amount may have to be pulled out for more explanation and discussion;

appreciated Town Meeting approved the smaller appropriations for further DPW design to bring back to a future Town Meeting. Ms. Nicol suggested that any article that was previously approved at a prior Town Meeting should be noted up front what the reasoning is the article is back on the current warrant, explain what CPA funding is and what it's for in the article presentation, with the applicants requesting funding be present at Town Meeting if there are any questions from Town Meeting members. Mr. Martin also suggested to group the debt service items and mark in the warrant as previously approved at past Town Meetings. Mr. Charter suggested if there are any future ballot questions before Town Meeting to clearly state in the warrant procedures for when a ballot questions that pass or

fails at the town election, suggests expanding the DPW Building Committee with new volunteers for more public outreach on the project, thinks the project will be ready to come back to Town Meeting next year with a better result.

Ms. Nicol said that Mr. Martin's Article 40 recommendation at Town Meeting didn't reflect the split Board vote.

11. Approve Letters Requesting the Filing of Home Rule Petitions with State Legislators

Mr. Mangiaratti requested the Chair to authorize the Town Manager to send letters regarding the 3 home rule petitions to state legislators. **Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to authorize the chair to send letters to the legislation delegation regarding the 3 recently approved home rule petitions approve 5-0.**

12. Update on DPW Building Project

Mr. Charter noted people were confused on the process of the ballot vote first then town meeting, and the misinformation circulating the results of the ballot vote and suggested a statement be included in the warrant what the results would mean for a debt exclusion failure at the ballot. Possibly expand the committee with additional members, and perform more community outreach, and next steps with the \$150K approved for additional design options. Mr. Mangiaratti noted still having the OPM under contract and the \$150K will go towards additional design options. Mr. Martin suggests adding a summary to ballot questions and hold public meeting sessions similar to the Planning Division for large projects such as DPW. Mr. Snyder-Grant suggests having more individual conversation with members of the Finance Committee instead of having both large groups together and the need to have more active advocacy when it comes to ballot questions, and humanizing staff that works for the DPW with an independent advocacy group. Ms. Nicol voiced concern about bringing on new members that are more politically involved, and suggests utilizing an outreach committee instead.

Terra, Mass Ave – requested the Select Board take the Finance Committee seriously, felt the agreement was to scope out with them and then figure out how to stay within the budget, noted it's against the town charter to use town resources to promote any single warrant article or ballot question.

13. Select Board Reorganization

CHAIR:

Ms. Nicol nominated Dean Charter for Chair seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and approved 5-0

Mr. Martin nominated himself for Chair seconded by Ms. Nicol

Ms. Arsenault nominated herself for Chair seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant

VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Charter nominates Ms. Nicol as Vice Chair seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and approved 5-0

CLERK:

Ms. Nicol nominates Ms. Arsenault as Clerk, seconded by Ms. Arsenault

Mr. Snyder-Grant nominates Mr. Martin as Clerk, seconded by Mr. Martin and approved 5-0

IV.

Consent Items

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant to approve consent items 14-20 inclusive and approved 5-0

**Ms. Nicol moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to adjourn and approved 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 10:23 PM**

- May 12, 2025 Agenda
- Public Hearing Notice for SPSP #3/19/2025-493, 60 Powdermill Road
- Livery License Application, Anu's Transportation
- Fossil Fuel Free Bylaw Waiver Application
- Housing Production Plan Presentation, Draft Plan, and Public Comment
- Memo from Treasurer Collector and Vote for Select Board Clerk
- Letters Requesting Filing of Home Rule Petitions
- Town Manager Amended Contract
- Letter from Town of Westford Supporting the 2025 Pride Festival Dated May 1, 2025
- Memo from Steve Trimble to Accept Gift from MacKinnon Printing Co. Dated April 23, 2025
- One Day Malt and Wine License Application from House Rabbit Network
- Multiple Memos from Maura Haberman to Accept Gifts to Support the 2025 Summer Concert Series and Special Events Dated April 30th and May 8th