



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 2, 2025

7:00 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

Ann Chang – questioned if the Road at Kelley’s Corner be renamed to Carroll Spinney Way

Leela Ramachandran – concerned about ICE agents in Acton and the events that occurred today and maker her feel unsafe in the community and asking the Select Board to help as well to keep the Community safe.

Tori Campbell and Ramachandran, School Committee – thank you for the support of the school community, committed to reduce the school assessment by \$150,000 and will be discussing the proposed budget amendment at the School

Committee’s and voting on it on June 12th and suggests taking the topic up at the next Select Board meeting and if passed will send the Board the revised budget with a possibility of calling a special Town Meeting.

Martin Benson – concerned about a Finance Committee member sending a letter to the Acton Exchange against the DPW ballot question and creating an ActonTV video on the DPW Building ballot question and that the *Town Counsel* noted a violation of campaign finance laws. He alleged that the Select Board requested the video be taken down and violated free speech.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minute

Mr. Charter requested opinion of Board members to start meetings at 6:00 PM and how it effects public participation. He noted that town Boards and Committees are requesting town staff support and the possibility of those Boards and Committees to start earlier and possibly during the daytime to accommodate staff availability. Select Board liaison assignments should pay attention to the Boards and Committees on their membership numbers and any difficulties maintaining a quorum and assist to encourage and recruit new members. Email requests to the Select Board will be addressed by the Chair or will delegate to another member.

Mr. Mangiaratti thanked the CPC for the 10 projects approved at Town Meeting. He noted some difficulty in maintaining staffing within the organization and is working with staff to understand what could be done differently to be more competitive and will come to the Board at a future meeting with a proposal to roll out this summer and is encouraging any input from Board members. Mr. Begin noted a gutter repair project has begun at town hall and anticipates it continuing for the next few weeks. NARA Beach is anticipating opening this weekend, Summer Concert series begins this month throughout the summer and to contact the Town Manager Office for additional information. Construction will begin on June 23rd for the Prospect/Main intersection and will continue over the next 6-8 weeks.

Mr. Martin noted the MWRTA established a shuttle service connecting the South Acton Train Station through Hudson, Marlboro, Southborough and Hopkinton with MBTA stops at Worcester, Southboro, and the Franklin line and can find out more at mwrta.com, He also noted a feature in the Acton Exchange adding a calendar highlighting events in town.

Ms. Nicol spoke about the immigration enforcement and the Attorney General issuing information on guidance located on mass.com and to think about neighbors in the community feeling unsafe and not welcomed . Support is available through the DEI Office, and a hotline through LUCE to report ICE operations to document the activity, and encourage writing to local *legislators*.

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted the launch of the Minuteman Bike Share program with a kickoff on Friday June 13th including accessible bikes and online registration for the use of accessible bikes at NARA Park. Littleton and Acton officials identified several boarder markers. At the May 19th meeting, the Board held a public hearing regarding gas main replacements, and will continue to discuss at future meetings.

Ms. Arsenault noted on June 3rd at the Rec Center the Economic Development Committee will be hosting RKG Associates and presenting a final plan for a strategic economic development action plan, and the town is still seeking final feedback with a deadline on June 3rd to submit. Noted an event last Sunday on ICE immigration that was well attended hosted by Leela and Alissa and Lorena Betts from the Peacemakers Network.

II. New/Special Business

3. Discuss and Vote on Request for Filing Fee Reimbursement, Goddard Consulting, 12 Spring Hill Road

Conservation Agent Olivia Barksdale outlined the request for a filing fee refund.

Mr. Martin noted the staff time and legal fees associated with the filing that granting the request would set back the Land Use staff and funding. Ms. Nicol questioned any previous refund request have been granted – Ms. Barksdale would look into any previous request and outcomes. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to deny the fee reimbursement for Goddard Consulting at 12 Spring Hill Road and approved 5-0.**

4. Listening Session – Select Board Goal Setting

Mr. Charter noted the Select Board Goal Setting Workshop will take place on Monday June 9th at 4 PM at the Trustee Conference Room and noted the Board receiving comments and suggestions via email.. The workshop will not accept public comment at that time. The public can review previous years' goals on the Select Board town web page. Mr. Mangiaratti highlighted the current Short and Long Term Select Board goals that are currently in progress and/or completed. Richard Kelleher – submitted 2 suggestions via email for preserving naturally occurring affordable housing and addressing odd-shaped lots

Debra Simes – sent email request and requests Board goal to address the municipality ability to respond to National Grid's request in line with Climate emergency declaration

Brewster Conant Jr., Main Street – questioned if any metrics in terms of global ways of reducing tax burden in town to avoid future tax overrides in the future

5. Review Charter for Acton Leadership Group

Mr. Mangiaratti noted the Board to has the opportunity to discuss with the 2 Select Board representatives before the budget process begins and asked if there were any items to discuss to see if any changes need to be addressed or considered in the charter. Mr. Martin expressed concerns about how ALG has evolved over the last years. It was the intent for ALG to apportion revenue for the next several fiscal years. In recent years it has not, focusing mostly on expenses which is the *role* of the Finance Committee. The revenue apportion must be agreed upon by the fall. Mr. Snyder-Grant commented on cancellations of ALG based on the ABRSD weather cancellations could be removed and could be conducted online. Noting all 3 Boards come in with specific instructions from their respective Boards and recommends work empowering the ALG as a group to develop decisions and not based on the direction of each Board. Ms. Arsenault believes in the model. Ms. Nicol noted the current charge in the packet was updated in 2024 noting the school cancellation update. Mr. Martin noted future years are out of balance and the plan does not consider any turnback by the Town Manger, nor the fact that the previous year must always be balanced.

Mr. Snyder-Grant questioned about future overrides such as the DPW Building plan, and a potential override coming from the schools, and that the ALG a good body to start discussing future budget plans. Ms. Nicol noted in the charter that the primary goal is to reach consensus on the multi-year financial plan with recent discussions and deliberations that consensus needed to be reached on the out years and members who believed it only needed to be reached for next fiscal year, stressing in the charter that consensus needs to be reached on the multi-year plan which includes the out years. Mr. Martin suggested word-smithing the charter, and suggested lowering the years out to 3 years.

6. Approve Notice of Intent to Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for Climate Leader Communities Decarbonization Accelerator Grant Consideration

Mr. Mangiaratti outlined the NOI for the proposed project of electrification of Town Hall to apply for up to a 1 million dollar grant to bring back to Town Meeting for approval. In the past, the town and school would apply for a green

communities grant for a substantially lower amount. The Town has been noted as being a Green Community allowing it to apply for the grant.

Ms. Nicol moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the notice of intent to Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for Climate Leader Communities Decarbonization Accelerator Grant Consideration and approved unanimously 5-0.

7. Approve Next Steps for Department of Public Works Building Project

Mr. Charter suggested giving a green light for the Assistant Town Manager for Arrowstreet to conduct a peer review of the proposed design and feasibility study, and to have the DPW Facility Building Committee meet in mid-July with the report when ready rather than waiting to authorize the peer review. Ms. Nicol suggested having DPW Building Committee members weigh in with some questions for Arrowstreet. Board members suggested to go forward with the peer review, and the options of the current facility and options moving forward Mr. Charter will work offline with Mr. Begin and encourage to move ahead with Arrowstreet.

III. Consent Items

Mr. Snyder-Grant held consent item 8. **MR. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant to approve consent items 9-14 and approved 5-0.** Mr. Snyder-Grant noted an error with the voting on item 5 of the May 19th meeting minutes noting the voting score was 3-0-2 with Mr. Snyder-Grant and Mr. Martin abstaining. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve consent item 8 for May 12th and May 19th meeting minutes as amended and approved 5-0.**

MS. Nicol moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to adjourn and approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

- June 2, 2025 Agenda
- Memo from Olivia Barksdale, Conservation Agent Dated May 28, 2025
- Acton Leadership Group Charter and Ground Rules
- Decarbonization Acceleration Grant Notice of Intent Dated June 3, 2025
- Meeting Minutes, May 12, and 19, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes, May 12, 2025
- North West Local Public Health Coalition IMA Amendment
- One Day Malt and Wine License, Dirigible Brewery
- Farmers Market Winery and Malt Application, Dirigible Brewery
- Farmers Market Winery and Malt Application, Broken Creek Vineyard