

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONER'S SPECIAL MEETING

May 21, 2018

Francis Faulkner Room 204

Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

To view the video, please [click here](#)

Present: Katie Green, Joan Gardner, Jon Benson, Peter J. Berry, Janet K. Adachi, Town Manager Steve Ledoux, Recording Secretary Lisa Tomyl

Ms. Green opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

### Citizen Concerns

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton - concern with people living in villages that are targets for high density developments. Feels that people that don't have the means to defend themselves. Concerned about the cumulative plan. Concerned about water, traffic – should tie water usage to permit application. Vishna (could not get last name), concerned about the 40B development planned at 446 Mass Ave. Requesting the Selectmen to relook at the project. Concerned about traffic, large density, drainage, location across the school. Ms. Green explained that the BOS is not the approving board, but wrote a letter of support for the LIP – she encourages him to write the ZBA and/or the DCHC with his concerns. Ms. Adachi explained the entire process of the application.

### Operational Minutes/Chair Report

Katie Green – Memorial Day this coming Monday – all town offices closed including transfer station – Emergency Services operating on regular schedule. Parade begins at 11:00 AM. Second public outreach meeting for 53 River Street is on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM in 204. NARA Family Summer Camp Out is June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Friends of Acton Memorial Library annual book sale is on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Memorial Library. Steve Ledoux – Danielle Savin was offered and accepted the position of the Library Director. Notified that Eversource's summer and winter rates are more than the electrical aggregation rates locked in by Peregrine.

### Appointments

None

### Selectmen Business

**Sustainability Policy** – Kate Crosby and students from ABRHS gave a presentation on a methane gas leaks. Next up for updates was Jude Aronstein, coordinator for Mothers Out Front. Would like to get out her gratitude as a mother of 3 children with the way the town is taking lead on sustainability, with gas leak surveys and the work of the students, and the support of the Board of Selectmen. Talked about gas tagging event or art exhibition on the size of the gas leaks with bamboo poles showing the size of the leaks. Noted that many of the leaks have been fixed. Next up was Corey York regarding natural gas pipeline studies. Representing Green Acton is Debra Simes. Very appreciative for all the work that Mothers Out Front and Corey York have done. Happy to see the momentum going for recognizing

natural gas leak problems. Need to get engaged to get away relying on fossil fuels. Acton Power Choice is promoted by Green Acton and is promoting residents to sign up for Green Choice- currently have 165 households signed up for the Green Choice. JG – how many miles of road and how often repaved – approx. 180 miles of road and varies each year on traffic for road repair and re-paving. JB – Jude South Acton has most gas leak – yes it is a cluster probably because it is the oldest portion of town. Also very old infrastructure. JB asked what the 3 things from GS – conserve energy, electrify everything and missed #3.

Townwide Sustainability Policy – needed to focus the policy on environmental sustainability. Ms. Adachi commented on that the current policy lays out what the goals were initially discussed. The aim of the policy should be environmental. Suggests a running list of what Acton has accomplished as far as sustainability actions. Ms. Green commented that the metrics should be developed under section 2. Agrees to a list of has been accomplished. Mr. Berry thinks an appendix is a great idea. Ms. Gardner commented that the Board's designee statement would be determined once the policy is put in place and when the Board adopts the policy, then at a later date adopt who would be assigned to oversee the policy. Mr. Benson agrees with listing all the accomplishments in Acton already - concerned about sustainability goals being too absolute. Ms. Green suggests to leave the goals out of the policy and to send it out to the public for comments as the current version of the draft with additional changes from tonight to all Boards and Committees.

Terra Friedrichs – thanks the Board for the work done. Comments about ACHC keeping it environmental – thinks fiscal and social are just as important as environmental and thinks that not allowing businesses due to permitting can be changed and voted on in the future.

Jude Aronstein – Boston committed to reduce fossil fuel by

Barry Rosen – support 4C what Jon and Peter said. Concerned about the stretch building codes that he initially supported but now does not. Concerned about making things mandatory. Ms. Green commented that will make changes in policy and send it back out all boards and committees and schedule at another BOS meeting.

**Sewer Privilege Fee Waiver, 146 Prospect Street** – Lou Levine representing Sonny Side. Noted board approved similar request last meeting. Ms. Gardner moves to approve the sewer privilege fee request for 146 Prospect Street, Ms. Adachi seconds. All Ayes.

**Letter of Endorsement for House Bill 4234, Act to Reduce Plastic Bag Pollution** – Carolyn Platt gave a verbal presentation regarding the need for a ban on single use plastic bags and a request for the Board to write a letter of support for House Bill 4234. Ms. Adachi commented on her view approving banning single use plastic bags. Ms. Green supports the ban on plastic bags and will write a letter to keep pressure on passing the ban, and if it doesn't pass then keep it on for a vote at a future town meeting to keep the pressure on the state to pass a statewide ban.

**Waiver of Fees, Skyhawk Sports Academy** – Mr. Ledoux expressed that given the amount of time town staff has to spend on inspecting the 3 sites, he recommends to not approve the waiver of fees request.

Mr. Berry moves to deny the request for a waiver of fees for Skyhawk Sports Academy, Ms. Gardner seconds. All Ayes

**Special Fall Town Meeting Dates** – possible article on the ban of sale of recreational marijuana, and additional items – the dates that available are difficult (near Thanksgiving). Ms. Green would like to have a discussion with the new chair of the school committee due to the increasing difficulties scheduling special town meetings. Mr. Benson suggested maybe holding it on a Saturday. Ms. Green will discuss with the new Chair of the School Committee to see if the first 2 weeks of December are available.

**Policy on Religious Holidays and Town Meeting** – Mr. Ledoux explained that if the Board adopts a policy, then the Board would have to define and determine what qualifies as a major holiday in the town, and that we (BOS) have to bypass some sort of standard of when people are off from work and people become offended if the town doesn't recognize a specific religious holiday. He questioned if there is a state standard or a specific set of school policies. Mr. Berry requested that the Town Moderator talk to other towns to see what they do with policies related to this topic.


**Consent Agenda**

Ms. Adachi moves to approve consent items 7, 9-21, Ms. Gardner seconds. All Ayes.

Ms. Adachi moves to adjourn, Ms. Gardner seconds. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary

  
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Jon Benson, Clerk