

BOARD OF SELECTMEN & SEWER COMMISSIONERS'
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Room 126
Town Hall
August 28, 2008
7:30 **AM**

I. CITIZENS' CONCERNS

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. 7:30 SET THE DATE FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING & WARRANT REQUIREMENTS

III. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

2. REVISIT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S VOTE TO APPROVE FEE INCREASE OF TRANSFER STATION STICKERS

3. OTHER BUSINESS

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

V. CONSENT AGENDA

4. **DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE MATERIALS, ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Enclosed please find materials in the subject regard, for Board consideration

5. **ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Enclosed please find a donation of \$2,500.00 from Comcast Corporation to be used for Acton Day, and in case of a rain out to be used for the Family Fun/Dog Day Jubilee at NARA Park.

6. **ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Enclosed please find a donation valued at \$210.00 from the Maynard Outdoor Store, to be used for Event prizes at NARA Park

7. ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Enclosed please find a donation of \$300.00 from Acton Toyota, to be used to fund the Moon bounce rental for Acton Day at NARA Park

8. ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Enclosed please find a donation of \$300.00 from EmbroidMe, to be used to fund the Moon bounce rental for Acton Day at NARA Park

9. ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Enclosed please find a donation of \$300.00 from the Community Phonebook Company, to be used to fund the Moon bounce Rental for Acton Day at NARA Park

10. ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Enclosed please find a donation of \$500.00 from the Youth Football Organization, to be used to support the Patriot's mascot, "Pat Patriot" for Acton Day

11. ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Enclosed please find a donation of \$300.00 from Ameriquest to sponsor the Moon bounce rental for Acton Day at NARA Park

12. ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Enclosed please find a donation of \$800.00 from Life Care Center of Acton, to be used to fund the Moon bounce on Acton Day, a bon fire on the beach at Winterfest at NARA Park

13. ACCEPT GIFT, RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Enclosed please find a donation of \$500.00 from Especially for Pets, to be used for gift certificates and "Goodie Bags" at the Dog Day Jubilee at NARA PARK

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Enclosed please find additional correspondence that is strictly informational and requires no Board action.

FUTURE AGENDAS

September 8 & 22

MINUTES PENDING VOTES

PENDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Toros L. Maksoudian, Conservation Commission (One Associate position open) his materials are at VCC for processing

Brendan Cotter, Recreation Commission Associate position, his materials are at VCC for processing

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

**August 28, 2008
Acton Town Hall, Room 126
7:30 A.M.**

Present: Lauren Rosenzweig, Paulina Knibbe, Terra Friedrichs, Andrew Magee, Peter Berry, Town Manager Ledoux, Recording Secretary; Christine Joyce. The meeting was not televised.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

OPERATIONAL MINUTE

PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

Lauren described the Acton Voters Group request for a Special Town Meeting. A date must be chosen within 45 days after receipt of the petition and legal and clerical requirements must be met. The only date the school is available is October 2nd. Town staff determined that the school was not available for a Saturday meeting. It was agreed that the date of the Special Town Meeting will be October 2, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the High School. Lauren asked the Board to vote on this date. Steve explained the process and noted that October 2 is the 45th day. The Board has to sign and post the warrant 14 days prior and the Town Clerk must hold a special registration 10 days prior to the Meeting. We need to open and close the meeting today, or leave it open. Andy noted that the Open Space Committee has two properties for potential purchase. They will draft warrant language to place on the warrant as a place holder, and drop it if it does the negotiations with the owners are not completed in time. Terra asked about CPC funds approval at Town Meeting. Andy explained that the CPC must first vote to approve the purchase before they can be brought before Town Meeting.

Lauren asked Steve what the outcome of keeping the warrant open until Sept. 8th would be. We could end up with only the citizen petition Article and anything that the Board may desire to put on the Warrant.

Paulina noted that it is unlikely that anything would be brought forward. PAULINA KNIBBE – Move to close warrant at the end of this meeting. PETER BERRY - second. Motion Withdrawn.

ANDREW MAGEE – Moved to Close the Special Town Meeting Warrant at the completion of the Board of Selectmen's September 8th meeting. PETER BERRY – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

ANDREW MAGEE – Moved to set the date for the Special town Meeting on Thursday October 2, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Acton Boxborough Regional High School. LAUREN ROSENZWEIG – second. UNANIMOUS

Andy suggested that the meeting be open and closed on the 2nd to get another 45 days. Andy spoke about Saturday meetings. He noted that as far as he could remember we have never had a Saturday Town Meeting. He felt it is not the time to try something new by going to a Saturday. Andy suggested that if we do have a Saturday meeting we should close the town fields and all Recreation Department activities so folks can come to the meeting. In the fall we have 3,000 kids on the playing fields and 6,000 parents driving them around on a typical Saturday. We would have to close town fields.

Peter was not in favor of Saturday meetings and stated that this is too short of a time to change a procedure that has been in place for years. He is not willing to change at the request of an ad hoc suggestion. Terra would like to see Saturday meetings and would like to see a commitment by the Board to put on the ballot which allows working class people to attend and allow them to weigh in at the Town Meeting.

Andy asked about the Saturday date and noted that most people don't even know about this issue and noted that no one knew about the Saturday option. Andy never saw an e-mail about the Saturday Meeting and only knew that it came from a single E-mail list.

Lauren explained that the group (Charlie Kadlec) sent out an e-mail to his E-mail list asking them to let the Board of Selectmen know that folks opinions are on Saturday meetings and to e-mail the Board of Selectmen with their preference. Charlie offered to add Andy to his e-mail list.

Paulina noted that we should not have the Special on a Saturday. She felt that there are good reasons to have it on Saturday, but asked that we wait until the LWV review this issue and wait until they give their report.

Terra said the list is people who are concerned about money are on the list. Andy said he was concerned about money and noted he signed the petition.

Charlie Kadlec asked that we add to the motion the place of the meeting and time, to have it on October 2nd at 7:00 pm at the High School.

Clint Steward read his letter to the Board

Lauren read her response to Clint Steward's letter.

Katrina of 18 Faulkner Hill Road asked that Saturday Town Meetings be discussed as a Non-binding referendum.

Terra asked to put the Saturday versus, week day Town Meeting. Paulina felt we need to talk about improvements to town meeting. Paulina thinks we need to expand the

scope, and have a broad base discussion at Town Meeting, and ask the League to report to us concerning their report.

Peter Ashton – spoke about opening the meeting on the 2nd and closing it to another date. Saturday town meeting would require a change to the Town Charter for the Annual Meeting. He suggested that trying to arrange this Saturday Special is impossible, and many folks are appalled by the suggestion of Saturday Special. He thinks that there are significant problems with Town Meeting and that we need to make it a better vehicle to express concerns. He asked us to wait until the LWV reports. He noted that the Moderator has acknowledged this issue but has chosen to move on with no changes thus far.

TRANSFER STATION FEE INCREASE

Peter Berry asked that they rescind the Transfer Station vote to increase the stickers. Lauren noted that the FinCom had a discussion about the fees. There had been a recommendation to increase the fees by \$5.00 as the transfer station is not self sustaining and needs to set the fees on what they anticipate our costs will be. The FinCom felt that given the recession and people's dislike of any increases we should not increase the fees at this time. Steve Ledoux said that the short fall is around the \$15,000 range and we set the increase conservatively and could make up any short fall by shifting funds over to cover it. Steve met with Finance Director and Public Works and they feel we can cover this under the present budget.

Andy asked that we rescind the vote to increase the fee ANDREW MAGEE – Moved to rescind the fee increase. TERRA FRIEDRICHS – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

Paulina originally voted for this as she is concerned that these things not be supported with tax base, but agreed that we could accommodate any shortfalls.

Katrina Bach commented about collecting signatures and about the recycling items at the dump. She asked that the Board seek a Grant to educate the public. Terra said she would like to have Katrina on the Green Team.

Mike Farquhar, 9 Agawam Road spoke about why he is offering a solution. 437 people signed his clip board. He commented on the anger the voters have against the board. He said they are personally angry. The wanted the Saturday meeting he said people feel they are not being heard.

Peter noted that this is a much broader issue than setting the meeting day

The Board asked to have a discussion with the LWV at this Special Town Meeting. 4-1 Terra no. Motion Passes.

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

ALG UPDATE

No Report

OTHER BUSINESS

Terra reported on the Comprehensive Planning project. They need to have workers willing to work at meetings and after the meetings. They want to change the structure of the meetings, and that current members are up on the learning curve, for appointment to this committee. It was noted that the Manager's Office has only received Dick Calendrella's sheet of interest at this time.

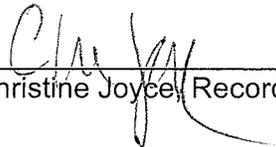
CONSENT

Peter Berry– Moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Andy Magee– second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Noted Terra's comment about library status in the down economy

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION



Christine Joyce, Recording Secty



Andrew D. Magee, Clerk
8 Sept 2008
Date