



## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 23, 2019

7:00 PM

ROOM 204, ACTON TOWN HALL, 472 MAIN STREET

**Present:** Joan Gardner, Jon Benson, Dean Charter, David Martin, Town Manager John S. Mangiaratti

**Absent:** Peter J. Berry

### **I. Regular Business**

#### **1. Citizen Concerns**

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton- as a small business owner is concerned that the sewer promotional materials does not state how much it will help big businesses in Acton, but will not benefit the small local businesses.

#### **2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update**

Ms. Gardner- Attended the Arbor Day celebration on September 23. Was able to help shovel and plant a tree. Compliments to the librarian in attendance and the DPW. There will be an open house at the Senior Center on Thursday, September 26.

Mr. Mangiaratti- Thank you to MassCor for the new tables in the conference room. Remarks about the Senior Center open house: 1-3 pm. Employees from different departments will be there to inform citizens of upcoming projects. Paul Campbell will be present to answer questions about the new sewer programs. A group of local residents will be present with information about the new power choice program. Bring your Eversource bill, and we can help explain it. Mr. Charter brings up that people have been speculating about the new dog park on social media, and if a park is built that dogs will not be allowed in public areas. Mr. Mangiaratti is putting together a list of issues to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **II. New/Special Business**

#### **3. Building Site Setback Request, 127 Strawberry Hill Road**

The town has been asked by the current owners' of 127 Strawberry Hill Rd to consider the restriction of the setback. Roland Bartl, Town Planner, is present to give an update and to answer questions. Mr. Bartl goes over the timeline of the property that is presented in the memo. The owner wants to divide the lot and build another house on the property within the 200 foot setback restriction. Mr. Martin asks why the restriction was reapplied when Concord resigned the restriction. Mr. Bartl states that there is nothing in the record explaining. Mr. Charter states that he was working for the town at the time and knows that there was concern about this area and that any changes could result in loss of character. States that this lot has been a problem for visibility. Believes that the town could work on this intersection to help the safety problems. Mr. Benson agrees that it is a dangerous intersection. Mr. Benson states that the board received a note that they should bring the historical commission into the conversation and would like to know if Mr. Bartl



thinks that it would be appropriate. Mr. Bartl ensures that this is not about demolishing the existing house. Suzanne Schoeller, property owner, argues against the 200 foot setback to protect the property. She is planning to divide the property and if they are not able to build on the setback, any new buildings would be too close to the current historical house.

4. Adopt-A-Street Applications, Christmas Motors

Mr. Christmas of Christmas Motors would like to adopt Brook Street, the entire length of Pope Rd, and Strawberry Hill Road. Jim Synder Grant, the organizer of Acton Clean Up Week, requests that Mr. Christmas have one of his clean ups during Acton Clean Up Week. Mr. Charter moves to approve, Mr. Benson seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

5. Easement Agreement, 647 Massachusetts Avenue Homeowners Association, Inc, 2 Gregory Lane

Mr. Grant comments that as a homeowner this agreement would make for a nice connection through conservation lands. Ms. Friedrichs agrees. Mr. Benson motions that we move and sign our end of the Easement. Mr. Martin seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

6. Discussion and Vote on Revised Social Media Policy

In January the board created a social media policy. Section 3.5, now revised. Town employees may not endorse non-profits and non-town entities on social media. Mr. Martin moves to accept, Mr. Benson seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

7. Update on North Acton Fire Station

Chief Robert Hart and Mr. Mangiaratti presented a Power Point presentation to the board regarding updates on the North Acton Fire Station. Mr. Charter notes that this is not a recent project and that it addresses long standing issues. Chief Hart begins updates and shows that the fire department currently works out of three stations; the North Area station covers the largest area of Acton. Mr. Mangiaratti continues the updates and shows the 2018 Town Meeting approved location and site plan. Cost estimate: \$10.9M. The town is looking for ways to implement value engineering concepts to attempt to reduce the cost. Final project budget is still to be finalized before the board approves it to bring it to special town meeting. Construction planned to start next fall, 12 to 16 month project. Mr. Martin asks if \$9.5M was \$10.9M after 750 was subtracted. Mr. Mangiaratti confirms. Mr. Martin asks Chief Hart if the size of the proposed station is large enough to hold staff and equipment if the other stations are remodeled. Chief Hart is comfortable that we can relocate resources accordingly. Mr. Martin asks if the paramedics are located in central station. Chief Hart confirms and states that the backup ambulance is located at School Street. Mr. Benson inquires if the addition of a sidewalk is included in this project. Mr. Benson thanks Mr. Mangiaratti for following up with Corey York and appreciates that the sidewalk project will not be a large project. Board would like all fire



stations to be maintained/improved over the next 10-15 years. Mr. Benson motions to hold discussion for October 21 meeting. Consent to calendar.

### **III. Consent Items**

Mr. Benson moves to approve consent items 9-15, Mr. Charter seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

Mr. Benson moves to adjourn, Mr. Martin seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

### **Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting**

- Building Site Setback Request, 127 Strawberry Hill Road
- Adopt-A-Street Applications, Christmas Motors
- Easement Agreement, 647 Massachusetts Avenue Homeowners Association, Inc.
- Revised Social Media Policy
- Meeting Minutes, September 9, 2019
- Green Communities Grant Supplemental Funding Request
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, True West
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Theater III
- Request for Use of Public Roads, On Your Marx
- Accept Gift, Recreation Department
- Request to Dispose of Obsolete Items Memo, Acton Memorial Library
- Power Point Presentation- Update on North Acton Fire Station