

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
May 4, 2009
Acton Memorial Library Conference Room
7:00 P.M.

Present: Lauren Rosenzweig, Paulina Knibbe, Terra Friedrichs and Mike Gowing, Peter Berry (late), Town Manager Ledoux, Recording Secretary; Christine Joyce. The meeting was televised.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

None expressed

CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

No Update

OPERATIONAL MINUTE

Steve announced we have a new WEB SITE and it is an improvement with many new services. Steve reported on his meeting with the Banking community with regard to Common Ground. They have five banks that the town does business with. They reviewed the pro-forma and now we are waiting to see if we can pool some funds to move the project forward.

Doug Halley spoke about the H1N1 virus. They had an exercise at Hazardous Waste Day for a drive through inoculation process. He assures we will be ready to handle if it affects Acton.

Steve spoke about the Farmer's Market representative Jen Taylor. She has been presented a draft lease. They have given the town the insurance required.

Steve spoke about the grocery cards/gas cards for citizens in need of these services. Staff will be unveiling a program called SERVE, and will be asking employees to contribute money to help buy food cards for the needy in town through payroll deduction. Terra spoke about having a process in place to know who should be given these cards and who reviews the needs of the people who will receive food cards. Terra wants to be sure we determine need vs. wants. Paulina said the Community Services Coordinator will determine the need and distribution of these gifts.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Sewer Advisory Committee will be presenting tonight.

Up coming MAGIC Meeting, Lauren will be attending

Sidewalk Committee is looking for one more associate. Paulina asked those interested to fill out a Volunteer Application and forward to the Town Manager's Office for processing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

TREE REMOVAL HEARING CONTINUATION, 239 ARLINGTON STREET

MICHAEL GOWING – Moved to continue this discussion until late July or August to allow more time to study the proposals for leaving the tree in place. LAUREN ROSENZWEIG second.
UNANIMOUS VOTE

SEWER ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT, WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REQUEST AND STAFF COMMENTS

Lauren discussed the formation of the Spencer/Tuttle Flint project and spoke about the original betterments of \$45,000 from a study to build a standard gravity sewer system for that area. The Sewer Action Committee was formed to look into less expensive ways to treat wastewater in that area. Soils and conditions made it difficult to deal with installing septic systems.

Bruce Stamski did a study of the area for a low pressure system. It came in at \$20-\$30,000 and betterments will be determined later. In order to go to design and implementation they will need to file for State funds and it must be done before August.

Andy Munro thanked the board for the consideration of a low pressure system for that area. He wanted to give guidance and time frame. Andy said the cost will be \$17,000 to \$20,000. They have had the interest added and \$244,000 dollars. They asked the Board schedule a Special Town Meeting in June.

Paulina asked about scheduling a Special Town Meeting in June to address this issue. Lauren said we need to have the STM so it will make us eligible for stimulus money.

Terra felt that we have not done enough hard analysis to know what the costs are. She was concerned that we have holes in our zoning and that sewers enabled additional development. She is concerned that without proper controls that we are opening ourselves up to more unsustainable development. She is concerned that we are rushing forward with this and that we are taking a leap of faith on many aspects of the project. She said that if the Board is capable of taking leaps of faith like this on this particular project, then she believes the Board should be able to act more quickly on other critical policy issues, as well.

Mike asked about the stimulus monies and will it be given to us. Paulina said we are in an excellent situation to receive these monies. Doug Halley spoke about State Revolving Fund and is asking projects submitted in Late June. They feel it will be a grant of 8.9 percent.

LAUREN ROSENZWEIG - Move that we hold a Special Town Meeting at the High School Auditorium JUNE 23 AT 7:00 pm MICHAEL GOWING – second. 4-1 Terra abstained. Motion passes

Paulina asked about the super sizing proposals. Paulina wanted a third approach which is fair to all citizens. The people that will be new users pay for some of the costs.

Paulina asked about the mechanics of how this site would go forward with super sizing and who we need to pay.

Helen Probst said there seems to be confusion about super sizing; it needs to be paid for. The super sizing pays for extra large pipes and items at the plant. But they have not paid for the existing plant; 1.66 million was just making certain pieces bigger. If these people had been part of the initial group we would have changed the denominator. She feels a lot of money was spent on the Plant.

Andy Munro said he liked the users paying their share, but had concerns that the cost not be too high.

They needed to decide the costs of infrastructure and how do we allocate to the cost to the new users.

Terra talked about super sizing having overall costs to us. Who is going to pay?

A resident noted the super sizing bubble kept the original members from paying for usage they did not use.

Don Barron noted that 45 Or 50 percent of the super sizing costs would be charged to the Flint/Spencer and Tuttle area.

What the Spencer/Flint/Tuttle area will get are the pipes in the street. The user will be responsible to get it to the house from street. It was proposed we pay for paving a police details and should the whole street be paved or patched.

Andy said that they asked the Town to cover \$50,000 for police and milling and paving costs. Mike asked whether or not the streets are in the loop in need of paving. Steve said they are at half their life.

Terra wanted fincom to report. Terra asked for an impact analysis to be performed.

Lauren was in agreement with Mike to see how much was in the budget to defray the costs of the benefit.

Mike noted we did the right thing for the Grace settlement and he said he is confident that the same sense of fairness and equitability would play a role as we bring this project forward.

Paulina spoke about solar panels on the sewer treatment plant, the proposal for solar panels will be born by the current and later users of the system and they will pay for the panels. Peter asked questions about the loan.

Terra said we would go through Green Advisory Committee to look at this. Mike agreed and if there are additional stimulus funds that may come up before August for the panels we should apply.

Paulina asked about proposal for how to go about managing infrastructure in people's homes to make it work. The pump will belong to the homeowner. There has been talk if they want to band together and have agreements in place with the pump manufacturer.

Terra wanted Town Counsel to know about the 3 options in the district, or out of the district.

Paulina wanted to add the Next Generation to the Special Town Meeting. Our zoning will be difficult to defend, and we could change the zoning at the Special Town Meeting.

Lauren said we should close the warrant.

Steve wanted to have Commission on Disabilities membership requirement change on as a warrant article to amend the Charter and then be put on the next election ballot. TERRA FRIEDRICHS – Moved to put on the Warrant. LAUREN ROSENZWEIG - second UNANIMOUS VOTE

Steve noted that there needed to be a correction related to the articles at town meeting – labeled as section B22, one should be B23. TERRA FRIEDRICHS – Moved to Approve. PAULINA KNIBBE – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

Dore' Hunter said it was obvious that the Parking Deck is controversial and wanted to take it a Special Town meeting would give us an idea of the feelings. Another alternative would be to labor though to October and put it on the fall town meeting, however, they would like to put on in June. We will put a place holder

Peter said we should have the Planning Board review the zoning changes for Day Care Centers.. Lauren says she feels it is bad planning to do a “knee jerk reaction” and wanted a sense of fairness. She suggested that if the Planning Board looks at it and if they want to do the work to get it ready we should support.

Mike thinks it would good to look at it any way; this will give us a chance to update the sq. footage.

TERRA FRIEDRICHS - Move the Planning Board look at options to change zoning for Day Care Centers. MICHAEL GOWING—second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

LAUREN ROSENZWEIG – Moved to Close Warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for June 23rd at the close of their meeting. PETER BERRY- second. 4-1 Terra to abstain, motion passes

SELECTMEN’S BUSINESS

TOWN MANAGER’S EVALUATION PROCESS

Lauren spoke about Steve Ledoux’s Evaluation not being done in February. She has spoken to Town Counsel regarding the process to be sure we had all the information regarding process. Lauren asked that the responses come back to her. Then they will write a summary and is hoping it will be done by the next meeting. It will be discussed in the public meeting. It was noted that Steve has asked not to receive a cost of living increase.

Paulina asked when she wanted the forms, she said a week from today, May 11th, and Peter’s will need to be filed before his goes on vacation.

Steve Noone asked if they would like his input on Steve’s evaluation. Paulina directed him to discuss with Lauren.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS ON ORGANIZATIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE YEAR

Paulina said that they need to have all five selectmen and every one can make June first priority session and open meeting, it will be a workshop meeting and what are the top things BOS should be looking for.

Calendar has been finalized and we will notify everyone.

Paulina wants to stop dealing reactively and to discuss policy. Periodically we will have a workshop on a topic and to discuss in depth. Paulina asked the BOS to for ideas and bring into the June 11th meeting. Paulina said the meetings may be once a quarter or once a month. We do not currently have the time to discuss issues and this will allow the Board to review this.

Terra asked about Finance and asked if we can come with a list of topics. Paulina said we will come up with items we can address.

Paulina spoke about the Liaison balance and every one got something they wanted and not wanted. Be a conduit but you will not be a committee member and not to interfere with the committee.

Introduce yourself to the Chair and ask about membership needs.

Paulina spoke about committee members and them being trained inconsistently and wanted to document a handbook that documents things like Open Meeting Law, how committee works, scheduling, minutes requirements. We need to increase consistency. The document will be worked over the summer and hope to have it ready in the Fall.

Terra asked about attending the Comprehensive Community Planning. Paulina said she could go as a resident. Terra wanted the meetings posted as an informational meeting. Terra asked why Lauren had so many strategic boards.

Paulina said she understands her, but will not change her mind on the liaison list.

OTHER BUSINESS

COMMENTS ON LANDFILL AREA GROUNDWATER PRE-DESIGN REPORT, W.R. GRACE

Mary Michleman spoke about the letter from Jim Okun regarding the landfill area. She discussed the plume and its activity since 06.

Mary discussed yield, water quality contaminated areas, the treatment process that is going to happen, and they suggest air stripping and air quality. They have brought down the metals. Lauren suggests we say it is important to continue air stripping, LAUREN ROSENZWEIG – Moved to send our comments to EPA. TERRA FRIEDRICHS – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

DISCUSSION OF WRAC MISSION STATEMENT APPROVAL

Next meeting

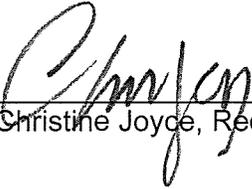
CONSENT

LAUREN ROSENZWEIG – Moved to approve as read. TERRA FRIEDRICHS – second, UNANIMOUS VOTE

TERRA FRIEDRICH- Motion to adjourn. MICHAEL GOWING – second UNANIMOUS VOTE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed



Christine Joyce, Recording Secty



Clerk
Date: 6/8/09