

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

November 3, 2014

Francis Faulkner Room 204

Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Present: Mike Gowing, Katie Green, Janet Adachi, Peter Berry, Franny Osman; Town Manager Steven Ledoux. Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary

Chairman Gowing opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Citizens' Concerns

Barbara Wilson – Chair of Council on Aging, is interested in the Board's stand on getting Senior Center Study Committee running. Mr. Gowing explained that there has not been an appointment as of yet but will put it on the agenda for November 17th.

Chairman's Update and Operational Update

Mr. Gowing – Reminding everyone that Election Day is November 4th. League of Women Voter is holding a panel on the Acton Nursing Service on November 6th at 7:00 PM and will be televised. November 12 will be the Special Town Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Acton-Boxborough Regional HighSchool Auditorium. Babysitting services will be offered and the MinuteVan will provide free transportation.

Mr. Ledoux – Intermunicipal agreement for Regional Housing Services Office – Town of Burlington becoming a member and may have another signing with the Board of Selectmen. Met with neighbors of Taylor Road with Ms. Adachi, Conservation Department, Engineering. The abutters had concerns about traffic and what solutions can be worked out by all parties. More 25 MPH signs postings, portable speed bumps for summer and spring. Another meeting is planned. Health Insurance meeting –preparation for Special Town Meeting this Wed at 7 PM at Public Safety Facility. Counsel for Wetherbee Plaza proposed another settlement which will be discussed in Executive session on 11/12 perhaps.

Public Hearings and Appointments

7:10 p.m. **Transfer of Stock, Spicepepper Garden** – Mr. Gowing read the public hearing notice. Chris Colman representing Li Fat, Inc. Ms. Green Moved to Approve, Ms. Osman Second. All Ayes, UNANIMOUS VOTE

7:15 p.m. **Change in Manager, Not Your Average Joe's, Inc. Alan Kusch** – Mr. Gowing read the public hearing notice. Alan Kusch appeared personally. Ms. Green moved to approve, Ms, Osman seconded. All Ayes. UNANIMOUS VOTE

Board of Selectmen
November 3, 2014

7:20 p.m. Use Special Permit #07/07/14 – 450, 37 Knox Trail, Driveway Expansion, cont. from October 6, 2014

Mr. Gowing read the public hearing notice. Mark Brabowski, Esq., Chris Whalen, Town Manager for the Town of Concord, and Sandy Brock from Nitsch Engineering were present. Ms. Brock reviewed the meeting from October 6th and the requests made by the Town for changes, etc. Nitsch Engineering updated the changes and explained the changes made. Mr. Berry suggested one minor condition on the bicycle racks that could be a condition of approval. Ms. Adachi had a question regarding the storage of snow and what substances will be used on the paved surfaces to keep ice from accumulating and also where the snow will go when it melts. Ms. Brock stated that there are no unusual things used just sand and salt and if there are salt restrictions, then sand only. No dirty piles of snow. Concord Town Manager will host two monitored watering wells. Representative (Matt) from Acton Water District spoke about the cost of the monitoring wells – about \$4000.00.

Acton Water District accepted the condition from the Town of Concord to install the monitoring wells. Concord wants to wait for an application with the Acton Water District to install the monitoring wells. They will have to go back to Acton Water District for the connection with the Concord property (WR Grace property).

Ronald Parenti, Commissioner of Acton Water District – preference of Commissioners is that the wells be installed immediately. Acton Water District stated they will have someone else install them.

Mr. Gowing stated that Engineering /Planning/Acton Water District are all in agreement with the changes that Nitsch had made with the recommendations of each department.

Selectmen's Business

Community Preservation Committee Application Reviews and Order of Priority Result of Board on prioritizing Applications:

1. Assabet River Rail Trail Easement Application
2. NARA Safety Improvement
3. NARA Picnic Pavilion Restroom
4. Irrigation Wells Arboretum & Mission Farms
5. Skate Park Expansion
6. Acton Arboretum Fern Boardwalk Replacement
7. Invasive Water Chestnut Plant Removal

Board of Selectmen to Take Positions on Planning Articles:

Article 9 – Ms. Green moved to recommend, Ms. Adachi seconded All Ayes, Recommended

Article 10 – Ms. Adachi moved to recommend, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes – Recommended

Article 11 – Mr. Berry moved to recommend, there were no seconds. Article to remain deferred.

Selectmen's Reports:

Board of Selectmen

November 3, 2014

Ms. Adachi: Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council – Meeting at NARA last Friday with ABCC member Linda Mayer, Recreation Director Cathy Fochtman, Natural Resources Director Tom Tidman, about ABCC-donated sculpture, "Heron's Dream."

- 1) Town obligation for maintenance, namely, lubrication of pivot points. Artist recently did annual maintenance herself. Town probably will do maintenance in winter when water frozen
- 2) proposed brass plaque on existing granite stone

Conservation Commission – Two meetings about proposed Arboretum parking improvements and abutter concerns about traffic, impact on buffering vegetation. Town Meeting approved Community Preservation Act funding for the improvements. 10/15, on-site meeting of abutters and Town Manager, Town Engineer, Natural Resources Director, Chris Prehl of Police Department, Arboretum Friends Chairman Cathy Hatfield and other members. Follow-up discussion last Wednesday among Town staff and Ms. Hatfield and Town Manager e-mail to abutters with actions that Town proposes to take to address concerns. Abutter letter in Thursday's Beacon was misleading, does not accurately reflect parcel condition or Town's efforts to address abutter concerns.

Finance Committee, 10/21 – Extra meeting to vote Special Town Meeting article positions, prepare for 3-boards meeting on 10/28; discussion of modifications to draft Point of View document for FY16 budget. Vote to recommend Bob Evans's senior tax relief proposal (10+ yrs residence, qualify for circuitbreaker relief but insufficient; FY14 tax bill >10% income). As for concern at prior meeting about depletion of fund by house-rich, cash-poor residents, they would not qualify for the prerequisite circuitbreaker relief, and Assessor would retain discretion in awarding relief.

Water Resources Advisory Committee, 10/22 – Compliance with recently issued draft EPA permit/regulations on stormwater management goes beyond draft stormwater bylaw and WRAC working on, and will involve Town departments and probably other Town committees. WRAC plans to re-circulate latest draft reflecting Planning Department input for comments from Engineering, Building Departments.

Regionalization Finance Oversight Subcommittee, 10/23 – Review of 10/16 School Committee preliminary FY16 budget presentation (Ms. Adachi circulated to Selectmen); discussion of how to track savings/benefits of regionalization. Level-service budget. Superintendent to confer with AB Finance Director for updated, more detailed numbers, such as update to reflect shift of OPEB obligation to AB. - OPEB – AB hasn't adopted policy of funding "normal cost." Vince Ammoroso, Boxborough Selectmen chairman, suggested asked bond-rating agencies about reasonable funding target; Ms. Adachi noted that Town and schools collective contribution for Acton was result of consensus of special OPEB committee that included School Committee representative, so any proposal to revisit recommended amount would require consensus of the OPEB committee.

- Benefits/savings of regionalization – Need to differentiate between increases/decreases due to "wash" shift of obligation from one entity to another; and true increases/decreases. But also need to avoid leaving voters with impression that long-term savings/benefits actually not materializing as proponents of regionalization represented.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Friends information session, 10/21 – Update on project by MA-DOT engineers. Friends President Tom Michelman was master-of-ceremonies, has moved to Arlington. Phase 2A (Carlisle-Acton, 5 mi) put out to bid, construction to start spring 2015, finish 2016. 6 bridges to be refurbished, 1 overpass over Great Road near Davis Road (up 20'). Conservation Commission permitting was biggest challenge because much of project in vicinity of wetlands, other resource area under Commission purview.

495/Metrowest Partnership Water Resources Committee, 10/22 – Special presentation on draft EPA permit/regulation on stormwater and related issues. Matt Mostoller of Acton Water District also attended. As noted, Town will have to undertake broader compliance effort, beyond stormwater bylaw that WRAC working on. Comment period on draft permit ends 12/2014; up to 1 year for EPA to process/respond to comments; final permit would have 6-mo delay in effective date to allow communities time for transition.

Rep. Atkins District officials meeting, 10/31 - 4 of 5 Acton Selectmen present. Significant district-wide concern about growing special-education cost, need for more state aid to offset cost.

Ms. Green: nothing to report

Ms. Osman: **Commission on Disability COD**

Mary Beth Coyne of Department of Development Services DDS and a client of her, Nora, and another parent and child and someone else who helps Nora came to talk about their experiences in independent living and working, and related challenges. They were not familiar with some of the transportation options or had had difficulty using our vans due to busyness. Biggest thing is lack of transportation services

Issues discussed at COD included some Douglas School fields, lower fields, slope of Acton Funeral Home ramp- may have site visit unless the Funeral Home decides to deal with it themselves. See COD minutes for details.

Board of Selectmen
November 3, 2014

COD Letter to Beacon approved in support of Acton Nursing Service.

TRAIN STATION EVENT ANNOUNCING THE IMPROVED OUTBOUND MORNING SCHEDULE WAS PLANNED IN LITTLETON OCT 22 2014

postponed, apparently due to a speaker's scheduling conflict

Economic Development Committee EDC:

Conversations ongoing among Derrick Chin of EDC, a business owner at Powdermill Plaza, and Scott Mutch about the slow rate at which the landlord there is accommodating the business owner's request for signage. Scott Mutch is assisting us in clarifying issues and moving the process forward as best as it can.

Informal discussions with JD HEAD, OTHER TRANSPORTATION STAFF re: two transportation issues:

--afternoon transportation for students, presently provided with difficulty in two ways: immediately after school, students signing up to use a different bus; and MinuteVan. We agreed it would be useful to look into fixed route combining these needs—possible students only for two circles beginning at the end of school, then adding the general population as CrossTown Connect already provides, for a few more circles. A new accessible vehicle the schools have could assist—though it is busy when students with mobility limitations have sports—this bus could assist. We are setting up a meeting within a month to discuss these, and while JD is very positive about the potential, he realizes it depends on the support of the School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools.

--Concord, Acton-Boxborough, and Case Transportation share needs and have varying resources available to them.

Lowell Regional Transit Authority LRTA- Thurs. Oct. 23

Mike Gowing will report.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council MAPC- Wed. Oct. 29

Robert Davidson Staff Achievement award to Jennifer Garcia, General Counsel
Theodore Mann Award for Regional Leadership to Jay Ash, Chelsea City Manager
MAPC just completed a strategic plan that lays out its 5-year strategic goals. They also just released \$1M in technical assistance funding that communities can apply for. The Boston MPO elections occurred, and the four seats were running unopposed, which is not uncommon for those positions. The communities that won the election were Medway, Lexington, Beverly, and Everett.

Work Without Limits Conference (WWL) "Raise the Bar 'Hire' " - Oct. 30:

Inspiring and educational conference- I have plenty of materials and contacts as a result, related to workforce and transportation issues. I attended with a member of the Acton Commission on Disabilities. Board of Selectmen
November 3, 2014

Housing Authority Regional meeting Oct. 30:

Interested, unable to attend.

Council on Aging COA, Nov. 3:

Some exercise classes are full and have waiting lists. Still, not everyone shows up. Still, the Director says that to have classes elsewhere would require staff being there.

A member of the committee, Bonnie Lobel, would like to reach out to seniors and future seniors to assess the desire/need for the Senior Center which would give more movement to the effort. Discussion about how to survey seniors.

Senior Tax Comm. met in June, COA members who attended discussed what efforts are ongoing here and in other towns.

Friends of the Acton Council on Aging has a fair Nov. 15, Saturday, at Senior Center, 9 to 2. Can get breakfast, lunch, stay the whole time. Raffle. Knitting and crochet, arts and crafts table, boutique, Select Chair being Santa Claus 11 to 12.

Mr. Gowing: **Health Insurance Trust** – H I T reviewed the 1st quarter performance as presented by our consultant, Cook and Company, and reviewed by our accountant. Due to the addition of Boxborough employees into the regional process, we are still determining why the numbers are not adding up yet. A review will be performed in the results presented at next month's meeting.

Cory Atkins meeting – Representative Atkins held a meeting of her communities to update them on the results of the last legislative session and what was happening on Beacon Hill. One of the major issues impacting all of the state Senators and Representatives is the new leadership coming in. We will have a new governor decided tomorrow, a new Senate President (Stan Rosenberg) beginning in January as well as critical positions that may impact the upcoming year like state treasurer, Atty. Gen., and transportation secretary as an example.

CPA funds have been impacted by a lessening of real estate transactions over the past year. The legislature and the governor signed off on a \$25 million transfer for this fiscal year (from surplus) but, if there is no surplus, that may adversely affect what happens to CPA in the following years.

Chapter 70 funding budget commission has continued to review the formula for chapter 70 to municipalities. It is difficult to see major changes occurring. Their final report is due June 30 of 2015.

OPEB legislation is doubtful in the next year. I think the spring Siegal report will help to see what direction they should head in. There are many small communities that are not currently funding postemployment benefits so it is difficult to impose a percentage split when discussing it.

Board of Selectmen
November 3, 2014

3 board meeting – the board of selectmen, the Fincom, and the school committee all got together to discuss each boards five-year projection as well as getting to know one another. We also discussed ways that we can save money for taxpayers going forward. There was a discussion around whether the 3 boards should meet more frequently (once per year) considering the new regional school district.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Berry requested to hold item 12 – held for future meeting – Mr. Berry moved, Ms. Green seconded – All Ayes

Ms. Adachi – move to approve 6-11, and 13. Ms. Green seconded, All Ayes

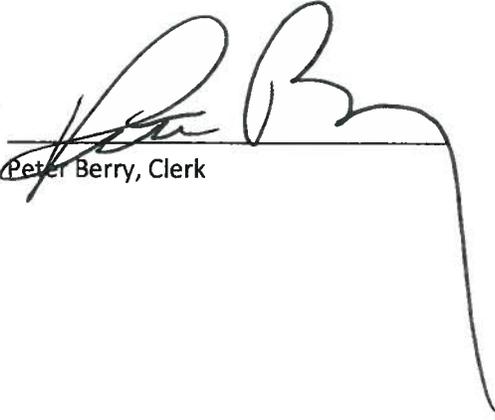
Ms. Green moved to Adjourn, Ms. Osman seconded, All Ayes

Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary



Peter Berry, Clerk