



# Town of Acton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Acton Town Hall • Room 204 • 7:30 pm

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Members in attendance: Bob Evans, Jason Cole, Steve Noone, Mike Majors, Margaret Busse (Chair), Roland Bourdon, Shuyu Lee, David Wellinghoff (Clerk), John Benson (Associate)

Members Absent: Doug Tindal (Vice-chair),

Other: Brian McMullen

Chair Busse called meeting to order at 7:31

**Public participation** – none

**Set meeting norms** – Working committee, expectation to take on more responsibilities outside of the meeting. Second, Chair discusses need to maintain respect for other town members, particularly presenters who should feel welcomed to discuss their viewpoints. Third, Hybrid-approach to discussing issues to maintain decorum. Suggestion to withhold right to interrupt.

**Discuss feedback from other boards** – Positive feedback on Point-of-view document. Frustrations on myopic view of Reserves and how our viewpoint is communicated to other committees/boards. Lack of respect for some other town members/committee/boards who presented. Committees viewpoint should be clear and communicated well to involved parties. Suggestions to improve include more often/frequent communications, additional member attendance at meetings during budget season, better collaboration on capital committees. Suggestion that fincom bring together school and town budgets as a whole as other committees look at these individually. Fincom ‘feedback on feedback’ is agreement

with points made but also need other committees to provide required materials in a timely matter (e.g. Kelley's Corner at STM, Minuteman, etc).

**Agree on goals** – Discussed list of possible goals to accomplish in the current year (Chair provides document). Committee should agree on Reserves use policy, Steve Barrett is expected to present materials in this regard to get clarity. Discussion on comparable community working group who is meeting to gather data from 8-9 towns in the area. Suggestion to make PoV a presentation to be used in discussion with other boards. Suggestion to extend time frame of planning process over decades as necessary to incorporate needs such as capital planning. Mike Majors to join Chair Busse on Outreach subcommittee and work on publicizing more information on the web site. Would "Open-mic" night be useful? Suggestion to get quarterly updates on various enterprise funds. Brian McMullen to provide data that was sent to S&P for recent ratings affirmation.

**Agree on committee training/summer meeting schedule** – No discussion

**Finance Committee Business** – Motion to approve May 24<sup>th</sup> minutes. 7 ayes, 2 abstains as absent. Shuyu Lee to liaison with Board of Selectman.

**Updates** – School committee looking to come in just under budget. Meeting June 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss capital plan with consultants. Minuteman extension granted to November by MSBA. 2020 committee regrouping after Kelley's Corner to determine next steps.

Next Meeting June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Wellinghoff  
Finance Committee Clerk

Documents referenced: Finance Committee Point-of-view