



Town of Acton

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 23rd, 2018

Town Hall Room 204 7:30 pm

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Members in Attendance: Steve Noone, Mike Majors, Roland Bourdon, Dave Wellinghoff, Jeff Bergart, Christi Andersen, Sahana Purohit (associate), Christine Russell

Absent: Jason Cole, Tom Farley

Other: Jon Benson Board of Selectmen

Called to order at: 7:30

Public Participation: none

Special Town Meeting Insight:

Board of Selectmen member Jon Benson presented an overview of the draft warrant articles for the December 3, 2018 Special Town Meeting.

There are no financial articles to consider.

Possible Article 1:

This is a proposal to adopt a bylaw prohibiting recreational marijuana establishments in town. In addition, there would be no cultivators, testing facilities, or manufacturers. This excludes medical marijuana dispensaries. The article has the same language as on ballot question Nov 6th. In order to make the bylaw change, it needs to pass a ballot vote and at town meeting with a majority.

Possible Article 2:

If the ballot vote or warrant article 1 fails to pass, this would amend the zoning bylaw to limit where marijuana retailers can be sited including buffer zones from schools, proximity to other marijuana retailers, and limits their size. This is only

zoning for retail sales shops, not cultivators, research facilities, etc. Because this would be an amendment, it requires a 2/3rds vote to pass.

Possible Article 3:

This is a proposed amendment to zoning bylaw to match changes to the zoning bylaw to use the same language in multiple documents. Unifies language used.

Possible Article 4:

This is an unknown HDC article – we will hear more about it after the November 5th Board of Selectmen meeting.

Possible Article 5:

The current marijuana retail ban moratorium expires Dec 31, 2018. The Attorney General has to approve changes to the bylaws and has up to 90 days to review if all passes at special town meeting. If the bylaw change passes at town meeting, the moratorium might expire before the Attorney General has approved the change.

Acton Leadership Group Guidance:

General Finance Committee consensus is to stick with Point of View guidance on budget increases.

Committee Business

Minutes:

October 9th meeting minutes passed by all who were present. Sahana Purohit abstained.

Committee Reports:

School committee – Christine Russell

The district is working with Acton Police to review safety around new busing-related safety issues. Parker Damon pickup has been re-routed to improve traffic flow on Charter Road.

Train Station – Dave Wellinghoff

Someone is proposing possibly using the Walker property as parking for the train station.

Minuteman – Mike Majors

The building is on budget and on schedule.

Walker Property – Mike Majors

An RFI was put out. Results were received which will be discussed in early November.

CPC – Roland Bourdon

There were turnbacks owing to some projects finishing under budget or being canceled.

BoS – Jeff

Kelley's Corner committee responded to DOT request at 25% stage to reduce budget. The result was to limit the use of brick to minimize expense, maintenance, and improve safety.

The Sustainability Policy was discussed towards the idea that goals should be measured separately from the policy. The idea is to soften the language to be viewed as guidance rather than a strict policy.

The Kmart parcel appraisal released. It is appraised as being worth \$5million-\$7million as currently zoned.

There was a discussion on the moratorium extension as mentioned above in proposed article 5.

The Acton Water District approved the Powdermill Place development going forward.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37

Respectfully submitted,
Christi Andersen
Finance Committee Clerk