

Volunteer Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2021

7:00PM

Via Zoom Conference Call <https://zoom.us/j/97587454141>

Present: Gregory Hutchins, Xuan Kong, Fang Yang, and Hart Millett (joined at 7:55pm)

Absent: None

Virtual Meeting Coordinator: Jim Snyder-Grant

1. Opening

Chair Hutchins opened the meeting at 7:02PM

2. Regular Business

- A. Update on Committee Openings/Appointments –Chair Hutchins updated latest committee appointments.
- B. Public Comments/citizens concerns - None.
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the VCC’s September 23, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Kong moved to approve the meeting minutes and Mr. Yang seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll:
Mr. Kong – aye; Mr. Hutchins – aye; and Mr. Yang – aye.
- D. Next Meeting – The next meeting has been scheduled on November 18, 2021.

3. New/Special Business

Discussion on Application by Michael Geis for the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)

- Mr. Geis knew that WRAC is lack of people. He believed that he could contribute on investigation.
- Mr. Geis has a PhD in Atmosphere Chemistry. He did postdoc in Laser Chemistry. He is 75 years old and working part time at Lincoln Lab.
- Mr. Geis had attended town meetings and 2 recent WRAC meetings. He is able to attend future WRAC meetings regularly.
- Mr. Geis reported no conflict of interest.

Mr. Kong moved to forward Michael Geis’s name to the Select Board for further consideration to be appointed as an associate member of the Water Resources Advisory Committee. Mr. Yang seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll:

Mr. Kong – aye; Mr. Yang – aye; Mr. Hutchins – aye; Mr. Millett – abstain.

Discussion on Application by Nancy Savage for Acton Boxborough Cultural Council (ABCC)

- Ms. Savage lived in Acton for more than 30 years. She never served on any committee and wants to give back to the town. She is active with Open Door Theatre

which is a fund receiver from ABCC. She is familiar with the grant application process and would like to see other projects getting funded through ABCC.

- Ms. Savage is a member of New England Society of Botanical Artists. She has been Chairwoman for several terms. She has a Certificate in Botanical Illustration from Wellesley College (scientific and accurate depiction of plants and flowers). Ms. Savage knows town affairs mainly through neighbors and people she knew since she has lived in Acton for so long.
- Ms. Savage attended the last ABCC meeting. She is able to attend future ABCC meetings regularly. She is away from January to April, but will participate meetings remotely.
- Ms. Savage reported no conflict of interest.

Mr. Yang moved to forward Nancy Savage's name to the Select Board for further consideration to be appointed as a member of the Acton Boxborough Cultural Council. Mr. Kong seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll:

Mr. Yang – aye; Mr. Kong – aye; Mr. Hutchins – aye; Mr. Millett – abstain.

Discussion on Application by Joseph Robb for Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)

- Mr. Robb is a hydrogeologist at Environmental Resources Management Inc. He has a Bachelor Degree in Geology, a Master Degree in Hydrogeology, and 25 years experience.
- Mr. Robb lived in Acton about 18 years. He has not volunteered in town, but actively volunteered for more than 30 years, such as Red Cross and Boy Scout. He felt that it is his duty to give back to where he lives. He knows Matt Mostoller for more than 10 years. He arranged cub scout to see some of the Acton Water District facilities and to teach them about the importance of water supply in our town. He stepped down to an assistant role in boy scout troop and has more time to dedicate to town issues now. He saw what the Water District is facing and believe that he has technical skills useful for the District. He likes to get involved to make contributions to the town with respect to water supply and water management.
- Mr. Robb has attended three WRAC meetings for the last month and a half. He is able to attend future WRAC meetings regularly.
- Mr. Robb has attended town meetings.
- Mr. Robb has reported no conflict interest now. However, he works for an environment consulting firm which could potentially respond to a request for proposals from Acton Water District. But the firm generally does not do municipal water supply works so he doesn't think in any foreseeable future that his firm will work for Town of Acton. And he will make sure that does not happen.

Mr. Yang moved to forward Joseph Robb's name to the Select Board for further consideration to be appointed as an associate member of the Water Resources Advisory Committee. Mr. Kong seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll:

Mr. Yang – aye; Mr. Kong – aye; Mr. Hutchins – aye; Mr. Millett – abstain.

Discussion on Application by Lori Cooney for Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

- Ms. Cooney serves in Cable Advisory Committee and Council on Aging. Dean Charter asked her to join CPC a few years ago, but she did not feel ready then. She is also a member of Acton Historical Society, Acton Conservation Trust, and Friends of the Arboretum.
- Ms. Cooney reported that she is a legal resident of Acton.
- Ms. Cooney reported that she attended last CPC meeting and will attend the next one. She is able to attend future CPC meetings regularly.
- Ms. Cooney reported no conflict of interest.

Mr. Millett moved to forward Lori Cooney's name to the Select Board for further consideration to be appointed as a member of the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Kong seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll:

Mr. Millett – aye; Mr. Kong – aye; Mr. Yang – aye; Mr. Hutchins – aye

Discussion on Application by David Schena for Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

- Adam Hoffman asked Mr. Schena to join ZBA. Mr. Schena is interested. This is his first excursion into any kind of public services.
- Mr. Schena retired several years ago. His professional background is in Chemistry and Biology. But his life experience includes rip apart and rebuild several houses. He has been a property owner for forty years in different states, and in Acton for 18 years.
- Mr. Schena report no conflict of interest.
- Mr. Schena attended ZBA meetings. He is able to attend future ZBA meetings regularly.

Mr. Kong moved to forward David Schena's name to the Select Board for further consideration to be appointed as an associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Millett seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll:

Mr. Kong – aye; Mr. Millett – aye; Mr. Yang – aye; Mr. Hutchins – aye

Discussion on Application by Bethany Nichols for the Land Stewardship Committee (LSC)

- Ms. Nichols applied for land steward for Great Hill. She is an environmental educator. She worked next to Great Hill in Discovery Museum. She has met with John Watlington, the current land steward. She will be trained as a sawyer.
- Ms. Nichols's family has been living in Acton- Boxborough for long time. She currently lives in her parents house.
- Ms. Nichols attended one LSC meeting. She is able to attend future LSC meetings regularly.
- Ms. Nichols reported no conflict of interest. However, there is a part of the Great Hill trails that Discover Museum also uses. She talked to Bettina about the use of the trails and the agreement between Acton Town and the Discovery Museum. She does not think this would be a conflict of interest.

Mr. Yang moved to forward Bethany Nichols' name to the Select Board for further consideration to be appointed as an associate member of the Land Stewardship Committee. Mr. Millett seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll:

Mr. Yang – aye; Mr. Millett – aye; Mr. Kong – aye; Mr. Hutchins – aye.

5. Adjournment

At 9:10PM

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Chair Hutchins called roll:
Mr. Yang – aye; Mr. Kong– aye; Mr. Millett – aye and Mr. Hutchins – aye;

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of September 23rd, 2021.
- Volunteer Application by Michael Geiss.
- Volunteer Application by Nancy Savage.
- Volunteer Application by Joseph Robb.
- Volunteer Application by Lori Cooney.
- Volunteer Application by David Schena.
- Volunteer Application by Bethany Nichols.