



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 22, 2022
7:00 PM
ACTON TOWN HALL, ROOM 204
472 MAIN STREET

I. Regular Business

Mr. Charter opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Resident Concerns

Jim Wood, Redwood Road – read from a prepared statement included in the meeting packet on Docushare commenting on the Select Board delegating police details at polling locations from the previous meeting, and commented on one Board Member’s inquiry whether police details should be positioned further away from the polling stations, indicating that some voters may feel uncomfortable or threatened. Mr. Wood cited a recent event that occurred at the Discovery Museum resulting in an arrest, and cited MGL Chapter 54 Section 66 regarding the requirement for police officers to be located at polling places to secure ballots, and called the Member’s comments naïve and foolhardy.

Charlie Kadlec, Paul Revere Road – commented on the report on the DEIC by a woman’s group, commented on the Diversity Officer title, and the concern of referring the term “policing” as part of the Diversity Officer title and job description. Feels the group conducting the study was biased.

Vandana Sharma – read a prepared statement regarding the commemoration of the India Genocide by the Pakistan army that is included in the meeting packet on Docushare.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Mangiaratti noted a fence has been installed in front of 362-364 Main Street, the former Kennedy Landscaping property. The former tenant vacated the property last week and now available for the new 40+ unit senior housing to be constructed. A Kelley’s Corner block party will be hosted in the parking lot of 252 Main Street, the former K-Mart store, on September 10th from 2-4 PM to kick off the construction project and celebrate and support local businesses with more information available on the town website. MassDOT is meeting with an internal working group next week regarding the Route 2 and Route 27 intersection. Local muralist Meg Nichols is setting up for a mural at the Acton Plaza on the Acton Wine & Spirit wall. Gardner Field playground has additional staff resources

allocated to ensure the project is completed as some redesign plans were required and will not be completed this fall but working on a spring completion.

Mr. Snyder-Grant agreed with a previous comment by a resident during resident concerns about being respectful, but condemned the singling out a Board member for a comment about her being “naïve and foolhardy” and not being respectful.

Mr. Snyder-Grant also commented on being able to apply for one of the 10 slots at the state legislation that allow 10 cities and towns be part of a pilot project to ban use of fossil fuel infrastructure in any new construction or major rehab, which is consistent with a recent bylaw passed at Town Meeting.

Ms. Arsenault commented on a vote made at the last Select Board meeting and supports Ms. Nagireddy with her ideas and insight.

Ms. Nagireddy commented about being singled out with the comment “being naïve and foolhardy” and felt disrespected by not being directly addressed. She feels she has a unique perspective as a person from an immigrant family and a person of color and this was disheartening, however, respects that he has a right to his opinion. Working with local historians regarding Indigenous Peoples Day and working on a ceremony and proclamation to bring to the Board at a future meeting.

Mr. Charter attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for a martial arts facility in Acton Woods Plaza.

II. Public Hearings

3. West Acton Citizens’ Library Trustee Appointment to Fill Vacant Seat: Joint Meeting with West Acton Citizens’ Library Trustees

Mr. Charter read the public hearing notice. Mr. Charter outlined the procedure for appointing a new Trustee to serve until the next Annual Town Meeting. There were four initial candidates that sent letters of interest: Two candidates withdrew prior to the hearing, and one did not attend and was unable to be contacted before the hearing. The one candidate present was allowed to speak for up to five minutes on their qualifications, followed by questions from both the current Trustees and Select Board, then opened up for public comment.

Annette Lochrie, Windsor Ave - spoke regarding her history of employment and residence in Acton and her connection with the Citizens’ Library, and programs she instructed at the Library.

Dot Curtis, Trustee – questioned if Ms. Lochrie still feels it is feasible for the Citizens’ Library to remain an independent library in current collaboration with the Acton Memorial Library. Ms. Lochrie replied that she would support any collaboration efforts that support the Citizens’ Library.

Tara Leuci, Trustee – asked what does the viability (of the Citizens’ Library) look like and thoughts on that process. Ms. Lochrie replied that the viability is on the library’s re-use and to bring people into the library. Asked what are three key drivers for running for the Trustee position. Ms. Lochrie noted to support the change of the library, and that she likes to help people. Asked if Tot Time was

funded by the town or by the people participating. Ms. Lochrie answered that she received her paycheck from the town.

Ms. Curtis asked about participating in the recent survey regarding Citizens' Library and noted people didn't know about the library. Ms. Lochrie denies remembering seeing the survey or the results.

Ms. Nagireddy asked how she would ensure she would work together with Trustees navigating disagreements and respect differences. Ms. Lochrie feels comfortable giving own opinion but respects other perspectives and learn to grow. Mr. Snyder-Grant commented that there is no specific chapter and bylaw for the Citizens' Library and best we can tell the library is functioning as a department of the town and the trustees are stewards of the funds, wants to know if Ms. Lochrie would like to be part of the bylaw creation that describes the role of the Citizens' Library Trustees. Ms. Lochrie notes that it sounds like a good idea and wants to get involved.

Mr. Martin commented on talking about programming ideas and how would you work with the other trustees and the Branch Manager to institute the ideas; Ms. Lochrie commented that she would work with the librarian; Mr. Martin added that it would be appropriate to approach the other Trustees before approaching staff. Mr. Charter commented that the structure of the library is in a different category than Acton Memorial Library and good to understand the position of the library as originally operating as the West Branch of the Acton Memorial Library and its' success relies on a close collaboration with the Acton Memorial Library which will make it a much more viable operation as had been in the past.

Ms. Leuci notes that there was a communication breakdown and that she was not aware of this meeting of the Citizens' Library trustees until Ms. Curtis informed her a few days prior. Mr. Mangiaratti adds that all candidates were notified about this meeting and that the candidate that did not show up was contacted again at the beginning of the meeting.

No questions from the public. The public hearing portion was closed by Mr. Charter. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to nominate Annette Lochrie to fill the vacant Trustee position until Annual Town Meeting in May 2023, seconded by Ms. Arsenault. Ms. Curtis – abstain, Ms. Leuci – abstain, Ms. Nagireddy-aye, Mr. Snyder-Grant- aye, Mr. Charter- abstain, Ms. Arsenault- aye, Mr. Martin - aye. The motion passes.**

The West Acton Citizens' Library Trustees adjourned its portion of the Joint meeting.

III. New/Special Business

4. Update on MBTA Community Compliance and the South Acton Action Plan

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the MBTA Community Compliance and where the town is with regard to compliance guidelines. Planning Director Kristen Guichard applied for a State grant for a technical assistance review to see what we can do from a zoning perspective to comply with the new requirements and asking the Board to designate a Board member to participate with an internal

working group. Ms. Arsenault requested to represent the Board. The board was informally in agreement. Mr. Snyder-Grant questioned if there will be a map tool designed that could identify the zoning locations in town; Mr. Mangiaratti noted the MBTA will be providing services to develop them.

5. Update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Allocations and Recommended Process to Update Plan

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board that the town received \$7 million with \$2.4M direct to the municipality and \$4.5M allocated to the county. The Town has received all of the municipal allocation funding and 50% of the county allocation, expecting the remainder later this year. Mr. Mangiaratti gave a brief history of the ARPA process of how the funding could be spent and was finalized in October. Approximately \$2.34M has been encumbered and spent, and \$1.3M that has not yet been encumbered because they are still in the planning phase. Funding in FY23 for \$1.4M that are just getting started, such as grants to businesses that do energy efficient renovations.

There is still \$2M held in reserve; Mr. Mangiaratti recommends the Board take another month to formally start revising the plan, suggests a comment period and then take another vote in October with a revised investment plan. Mr. Mangiaratti encourages investing the rest of the funding over the next three years. Mr. Charter would urge to move towards capital projects first. Mr. Martin commented on the overall of the process of the comments from stakeholders and Finance Committee similar to previous meetings. Mr. Charter suggested taking comments from the School District, Acton Water District, and the public. Suggests the Town Manager develop a list similar to previous ARPA projects by the first Board meeting in September and vote on at the second meeting in September. Board members were generally in agreement with the process.

IV. Consent Items

Mr. Martin held consent item 8.

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve consent items 7 and 9 through 22 inclusive and approved unanimously.

8. Mr. Martin requested to add a line item and requested if the committee to accept gifts or grants. Mr. Charter noted any gifts or grants would need to be accepted by the Select Board. Mr. Mangiaratti noted the Town Accountant can create an account to accept gifts for the celebration.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nagireddy to accept the draft charge with the line “All events must be designed to involve, and must have outreach to reach all residents of Acton” and approved unanimously.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to adjourn and voted unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Documents Used

- Agenda, Select Board, August 22, 2022
- Public Hearing Notice for West Acton Citizens' Library Trustee Appointment Joint Meeting with current Trustees
- MBTA Community Compliance and South Acton Action Plan Memo from Planning Division
- FY23 Sewer Operations and Management Memo
- August 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Draft Charge of the 250 Committee
- Deed and Easement for 180 Newtown Road
- Accept Gift Memo from Economic Development Director from Phillips 66 Dated August 3, 2022
- Accept Gift Memo from Economic Development Director from Q Cleaner Dated August 3, 2022
- Accept Gift Memo from Economic Development Director from RF's Woodworking Dated August 3, 2022
- Accept Gift Memo from Economic Development Director from Roche Bros Dated August 3, 2022
- Accept Gift Memo from Economic Development Director from SquashWest Dated August 3, 2022
- Accept Memo from Economic Development Director from X Golf Dated August 3, 2022
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Vicki Tidman
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Acton Democratic Town Committee
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Iron Work Farm
- Request for Fee Waiver Memo, Iron Work Farm Dated August 10, 2022
- Email from Dean Charter for Request for Committee Appointment Dated August 17, 2022
- Draft Letter to Department of Energy Resources Commission
- Accept Gift Memo from Planning Division Dated August 18, 2022