



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2022
7:00 PM
ACTON TOWN HALL, ROOM 204
472 MAIN STREET

Present: Dean Charter, Jim Snyder-Grant, Himaja Nagireddy, Fran Arsenault, David Martin, Town Manager John S. Mangiaratti, and Assistant Town Manager Mark Hald

I. Regular Business

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

1. **Resident Concerns**

Madeline Cruz, Sachem Way – thanked the Board for listening to the concerns of considering a renter advocate and listening of their concerns

Heidi Porten, 32 Parker Street - attended a meeting of ACHC and concerned about plans submitted by the Toll Brothers to build a 340-unit apartment complex on the former WR Grace site with 500 parking spaces and the strain on water usage, increase in traffic and the effect on sewer/septic plans.

Martin Benson, Deacon Hunt Drive – expressed concern about the Board declaring Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day at a previous Board meeting and the multiple complaints regarding the recent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee's (DEIC) public statement that was not approved by the Select Board, complaints about a records request response, and read from a prepared statement included in the Docushare packet.

Charlie Kadlec, Paul Revere Road – expressed concern about the recent public statement released from the DEIC

Daniel Gilfix, Vanderbelt Road – questioned Mr. Martin about disallowing public comment at DEIC meetings after public comments appeared to be disruptive and felt it should be allowed and respectfully allow town residents have the opportunity to submit public comment and encourage the Select Board require all Boards and Committees to allow for public commenting; concerned about the statement issued by the DEIC.

Janet Adachi, Simon Hapgood Lane – felt the statement issued by the DEIC and posted on the town website was a misrepresentation as a whole for municipal government and such statements would need approval of the Select Board or Town Manager.

Terra Friedrichs, Mass. Ave – supports sewer at 68 Parker Street apartments, supports the DEIC statement, and supports Indigenous Peoples Day, concern on

what can be done to minimize growth of unaffordable housing through zoning and tree land protection measures.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Mangiaratti reminded when the Board voted on the ARPA allocations that as part of the motion, the Board directed the Town Manager to seek legal consultation confirming no prohibition on the use of funds for sewer systems. Counsel confirmed there are no restraints on the use of ARPA funds for this purpose. There will be a public forum for the Open Space and Recreation Plan on Thursday November 10th at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Martin noted that the comments made by Mr. Benson were incorrect, noted that public comments made during DEIC meetings were repetitive and unproductive, the DEIC statement was drafted by a member and approved by the Commission. Ms. Nagireddy supported Mr. Martin's statement. There was a Diwali Celebration on Saturday in Boxborough at the Sargent Library with over 1000 participants, the Indigenous Peoples Day was canceled due to unforeseen circumstances and plans to work with the Historical Commission and Ms. Arsenault to host a series of additional events planned for future dates to support the Nashoba tribe. Ms. Arsenault agreed with Mr. Martin's statement and noted the first meeting of the Human Services Committee will be this Thursday, October 21st.

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted that the Board had nominated him as the representative to the Acton-Boxborough Community Resource Network and at a future meeting consider Ms. Arsenault be nominated as the representative, as she is the Board liaison to the Human Services Committee. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Boardwalk School on Saturday, and the Diwali Celebration on Saturday as well.

Mr. Charter noted the Acton Dog Park will hold a public forum on October 26, 2022 at 7:00 PM in Room 204 and present the landscape architect's design plan for the dog park, the senior park and the Acton Housing Authority project, which further accelerates the Select Board's goal to create a unified plan for the property.

II. Public Hearings

3. 7:10 PM Taxi/Livery License, Ugapost Transportation, Inc., 420 Great Road

Mr. Charter read the public hearing notice. The applicant was not present for the hearing. Franny Osman, representing the Transportation Advisory Committee reminded the Board that there used to be a taxi service paid for by a grant, and now have another \$5000 in grant money for continuation of the taxi program and encouraged the Board to consider this with the local applicant to participate in the program. Mr. Snyder-Grant noted a taxi service start up is expensive and appreciate starting his business in Acton. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to approve a Taxi/Livery License for Ugapost Transportation, Inc. located at 420 Great Road and unanimously approved**

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III. New/Special Business

4. Presentation of the Finance Committee Point of View and Discussion of Upcoming Joint Meeting with Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee and Boxborough Officials

Finance Committee chair Adam Nolde and member Christine Russell presented Finance Committee Point of View with their recommendations for FY24. Mr. Martin commends the presentation by the Finance Committee, Mr. Snyder-Grant noted there are residents that are currently not taxpayers (renters) and how the Finance Committee factors in not paying into the tax base. Mr. Nolde noted that it is a trickle down payment by the landlord charging rent, so ultimately renters are paying into the tax base.

Members of the Board, Finance Committee, School Committee and Boxborough officials will be meeting next week. Mr. Charter will be speaking on behalf of the Board and was looking for issues that should be part of the discussion. One is the Capital Improvement Plan, long-term projects such as DPW Facility and the shared fuel depot, also looking at goals that have a financial impact should be highlighted as part of the discussion. Mr. Snyder-Grant mentioned the Minuteman regional school budget; not just the capital cost, but more students attending Minuteman. Mr. Martin urges to tread lightly with capital projects, and noted the cost per pupil at Minuteman is rising. Ms. Nagireddy mentioned the importance of incorporating the Climate Action Plan into the discussion and future budget planning. The Town Manager noted that pension assessment continues to increase at a larger rate than what is in the operating budget.

5. Discuss Next Steps for Affordable Housing Trust Study Approved at Town Meeting Under Article 52

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the October 3rd meeting of ARPA funding allocated for a housing study and taking an inventory of rental units and how to improve them. Members of the housing rehab group met with Mr. Mangiaratti on what they are looking for as far as housing inventory and the \$25,000 appropriated at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. It may not be ready to be incorporated in the budget planning for FY24, but some startup funding could be obtained through CPA funds and propose to start up next year. Currently, the rental model will be considered first such as condo rental units. Mr. Mangiaratti would request RHSO look into the feasibility study beginning this winter.

6. Discussion of Non-Binding Articles Approved at Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Charter read the lists of the non-binding articles that passed at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Charter was looking for an update of where the town is compared to the Select Board goals. Mr. Snyder-Grant met with Ray Yacoubi how to follow through the non-binding articles on who would oversee how the articles are worked on and to communicate with the Town Manager on their progress. Ms. Nagireddy updated the Board on article 50, noting certain limitations on how Trust funds can be used for renovations on the

Woodlawn Chapel and the prioritization of making the Chapel accessible. Staff is working on a CPA application for a more accessible design on the exterior of the building and incorporate the interior changes as well. Board members are in general agreement to continue towards CPA funding and design.

Mr. Snyder-Grant updated the Board on Article 51 regarding electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for multi-family housing. Mr. Snyder-Grant noted the updated stretch code will require different amounts of EV charging stations for multi-family housing – part one is being taken care of by the State and part two is the Town's responsibility. Mr. Mangiaratti noted that town staff does not approach non-binding resolutions without the direction of the Select Board and that Select Board goals are focused more heavily to be completed by June 30, 2023, and also highlighted some grants that have been recently awarded, and also grants in which the Town is in the application process.

Mr. Martin suggests encouraging the installation of additional fast (EV) chargers. Mr. Charter does not support using tax dollars to pay for installation of EV chargers on private property. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Mr. Martin for the Board to encourage the town to continue to look for ways to expand the number of car charging stations for renters, and amended by Ms. Arsenault adding multi-family (units) and approved unanimously.**

Mr. Snyder-Grant introduced article 54. Mr. Snyder-Grant was unsure if Mr. Kelleher, who sponsored the article, has engaged with Town staff. Mr. Mangiaratti has not encouraged the Planning staff to directly work on the article, so has no update for the Board. Mr. Charter noted that the article would involve extensive work. Mr. Martin encourages multi-boards to work together and give a presentation to the Select Board their recommendation on how the bylaw might be drafted.

Mr. Snyder-Grant highlighted article 56 – most of the result clauses is about supporting the Climate Action Plan. Mr. Charter noted that the article fits with the Select Board goals and recommends that Town staff not get involved with advocacy. Mr. Snyder-Grant will come back to the Board after consulting with the Town Manager on a plan.

Mr. Snyder-Grant highlighted article 57, and the plan would have the Town Clerk send a letter to officials regarding the will of Town Meeting and encourages the Town Manager to implement it. Board members were generally in support of all recommendations.

7. Designate Board Member to Participate in Boy Scout Merit Badge for Citizenship in the Community Interview on Clean Energy and Climate Change

Mr. Snyder-Grant volunteered to represent the Board.

8. Designate Board Member for Eagle Scout Court of Honor, Anthony Tyler and Derick Lu, October 29, 2022

Mr. Charter volunteered to represent the Board.

IV. Consent Items

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant to approve consent items 9-14 inclusive and approved unanimously.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to adjourn and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Documents Used

- Agenda, Select Board, October 17, 2022
- Taxi License Application, Ugapost Transportation, Inc.
- Finance Committee Point of View Presentation
- Non-Binding Article Spreadsheet
- Email from Joe Martineau Requesting Helping A Scout with a Merit Badge Requirement Dated October 11, 2022
- Invitation Letter from Carol W. Chytil to Attend Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony on October 29, 2022
- Memo from Corey York Regarding Sale of Town Vehicles Dated October 6, 2022 and Email Dated October 12, 2022
- Email from David Martin Requesting Committee Appointment for Hema Santhanakrishnan Dated September 1, 2022
- Letter of Recommendation from the Volunteer Coordinating Committee Recommending Committee Appointment for Zhengyu Huang
- Accept Gift Memo from the Recreation Department for a Sis'by-Side Trike Dated September 29, 2022
- State Election Warrant
- Email from Katie Neville for A-B United Way Chalk the Walk Request Dated October 13, 2022