



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

- Tom Gillispie, Chair
- Karen Martin, Vice-Chair
- Clare Siska
- Dean Charter, Select Board liaison

Absent:

- Fred Kinch
- Luisa Callahan
- Mike Perry

Members of the Public:

- Joe Will
- Jeff Bergart
- Steve Trimble

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

I. New Business

1. Stanton Design Grant / Select Board Debrief

- Unanimous support from Select Board at their 2/7/22 meeting to submit Stanton Design Grant application through the Town Manager. Members gave positive feedback and asked pertinent questions. Dean Charter will follow up with Town Manager and request that he ask the Stanton Foundation about anticipated time frame for a response.
- Dean continues to pursue the question of the curb cut through the Planning Director and Mass DOT. Responses to date have been vague and unofficial, tho it was informally recommended that we position the entrance as far as possible from the Rt. 2 exit. Obtaining clarity on this issue is important before we proceed with design.
- The committee needs guidance from the Town Manager on the procurement process so that we can consider designers in advance of Stanton Grant approval. Dean will follow up.

2. AHA Project Meeting Status

- Tom G has reached out to Kelly Cronin, who agrees that a meeting with the involved parties (Hancock Associates, AHA representative(s), ADPC representative(s), Dennis Dale, etc.) to discuss construction efficiencies would be useful. Tom G will follow up.
- The AHA's funding application was submitted to the State in January. Due to the availability of ARPA funds to support housing initiatives, there may be a second round of applications/funding in 2022, increasing the chances of receiving funding in this calendar year.
- Until Fred Kinch is available, Karen Martin will attend future AHA meetings in his place

3. Updated Charter

- Attendees reviewed the draft updated committee charter at a high level and all feedback was recorded.
- Tom G will incorporate suggested changes and bring back to the committee for a vote at a future meeting. Once approved by the committee, it will be submitted to the Select Board for a vote of approval.

4. Communications Update:

- The 2/7/2022 Select Board meeting was communicated to the public via Facebook, NextDoor and an eblast.
- Clare will follow up shortly with another round of communications and will update our website. Focus will be publication of preliminary design and immediate next steps (submission of design grant application, introduction of the Main Street Campus / Master Plan project, designer selection and commencement of design.

5. Updates from attendees

- Dean announced that only incumbents are running for two open seats on the Select Board so he anticipates continuing in his role on the Select Board and as the ADPC liaison.
- At their 2/7/22 meeting, the Select Board approved a request by the AHA for Home Rule Petition that would reduce procurement issues, accelerate the construction process and save considerable project costs. This will appear on the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and, if passed, would then go to the State Legislature for final approval. There is precedent for such a move by other towns for similarly large projects.
- Advanced design for the potential sewer project for Main Street has progressed. Dean will check with the Town Manager on how far those plans have progressed. However, new rules expanding the types of projects eligible for ARPA funds have increased the requests, so funding is uncertain. The Select Board may need to re-allocate some ARPA monies. Resolution is anticipated in the next ~ month. Funds from the Federal Infrastructure program are most likely to go to rebuilding bridges across the Commonwealth and are an unlikely source of funds for an Acton sewer project.
- Town Budget process continues in earnest. In regards to ARPA funding, the Acton Leadership Group generally does not support use of one-time funds to address ongoing budgetary issues.

- Jeff B reports that the Council on Aging is very pleased with the ADPC and Select Board support of the Main Street Campus / Master Plan. He Steve T suggest an initial meeting to come up with a list of goals / wants / questions / issues. Some discussion is needed on how these projects intersect and who designs them. Dean will engage the Town Manager on moving forward.

II. Regular Business

1. Review of 1/20/2022 meeting minutes was deferred.

III. Old Business

1. None.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Next ADPC meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7 PM – virtual meeting.

V. Citizens' Concerns:

1. No citizen came forward with concerns at this meeting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska