



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2023
7:00 PM
ACTON TOWN HALL, ROOM 204
472 MAIN STREET

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant, Fran Arsenault, Dean Charter, David Martin, Alissa Nicol

Absent: None

I. Regular Business

1. Resident Concerns

Terra, West Acton – feels awkward welcoming Native Americans to their own land, questioned if public could comment on the West Acton Citizens' Library Trustees topic, questioned if the Select Board received her email on the roles of the West Acton Citizens' Library Trustees from the attorney representing the Friends of West Acton Citizens' Library

Sahana Purohit – attending as the liaison of the Acton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, thanks the Sustainability Director for the request of additional money for the range replacements.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minute

Mr. Snyder-Grant mentioned the last-minute changes on the agenda regarding the next steps for the sewer commissioner analysis and feels there needs to be further discussions with the Town Manager and Ms. Nicol. The letter for the Nashobah Praying Indians residing in Littleton was submitted late and felt it needed to be added at the last minute.

Ms. Nicol Acton Water District received a \$500,000 grant towards the purchase of 549 Main Street property, the Health Department will be hosting a hazardous materials day at the DPW garage on September 12th, the Water Resources Advisory Committee is reviewing the draft Great Road Wastewater Solution Study conducted by Wright-Pierce and will be submitting their comments to the Town Manager, the public can comment now and also when the final report is published. The East Acton Village Green will be the location for a ceremonial and blessing of the park on September 9th with members of the Nashobah Praying Indians performing a formal ceremony. Danny's Place will be holding a grand opening of their new location on September 17th at 543 Mass Ave, and noted the 2nd annual Diwalifest on October 8th at Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough. Ms. Arsenault noted to encourage town residents to join a committee. Mr. Charter noted the Community Preservation Committee is meeting tomorrow night and will be reviewing the Community Preservation Committee Plan.

II. New/Special Business

3. Presentation of Climate Action Plan Update

Andrea Becerra, sustainability Director, along with fellows Hannah and Lauren introduced an update to the Climate Action Plan tracker. Lauren explained the tracker and the data collected since 2022. Ms. Nicol questioned if there was any area on the tracker where residents can provide feedback aside from just the email address, Ms. Becerra noted that it is still in a working document format. Mr. Martin questioned about the status percentages and if it was about progress made of the actions that have taken place. Ms. Arsenault question about what the term stationary meant – Ms. Becerra noted it is buildings. Mr. Snyder-Grant questioned the big drop in vehicle emissions and how much is that from methodology. Ms. Becerra feels the vehicle data is accurate. Mr. Charter questioned about the rationale about the Town marketing Acton Power Choice to the public but withdrawing all the Town accounts from it because a better deal was to be had elsewhere and encouraged better transparency when advocating for a program. Ms. Becerra noted that the next bid for pricing will be in December and most likely the rates will be substantially decreased.

Terra, West Acton questioned about the 50 acres of land destroyed every year and impervious paving if the tracker is including that data

Tom Beals, Willow Street – questioned about the number of electric vehicle and the charging units getting powered from non-renewable sources

4. Update from the 250th Committee and Announcement of Logo

Mr. Charter presented the progress and an update of the 250th Committee and the official announcement of the 250th official logo. The committee has been meeting monthly and created a subcommittee that has been meeting more frequently.

Received 43 logo submissions, and requested the 2 finalists to combine their designs. Will be creating a merchandising subcommittee starting in September and have some commemorative items available soon. Programming will be beginning in late September with speakers, and additional events leading up to the main event in 2026. Articles will be submitted to the Action Unlimited regarding the additional events. Looking for additional funding for the upcoming events.

5. Discuss the Role of the West Acton Citizens' Library Trustees

Ms. Nicol acknowledged the history and emotional involvement of staff, Trustees, and public, and staff keeping the library open after the departure of the Branch Manager, and respects all involved and invested with the Citizens' Library, and the amount of time and research she has spent to understand the history. Ms. Nicol provided to the Board members a spreadsheet on how the Board feels the Citizen Library Trustees should act, and requested the Select Board to step back and allow the Trustees to complete the spreadsheet and allow the chance to speak on the items. Ms. Nicol suggests engaging public involvement and public input to validate the expectation of the authority of the Trustees. Mr. Charter questioned about the validity regarding a review of the performance of the Trustees as elected officials on the spreadsheet. Mr. Martin suggests to start with what is this type of library according to General Laws. Members expressed their ideals of priorities of

what the Trustees responsibilities should be. Mr. Snyder-Grant transitioned to next steps after the trustees have their next discussion maybe make a small working group and take what each group have expressed their ideas of what the responsibilities of the trustees would be. Mr. Martin noted the Select Board is the Board that makes the decision what goes to Town Meeting. Ms. Nicol encourages the Select Board to take pause and allow the process of the Trustees input, staff input, and public input in the final decision, supports a small working group including members of the Citizens' Trustees, Acton Memorial Library Trustees, the Select Board, staff, and perhaps a member of the Friends of the Acton Libraries so there is strong support on both ends to bring an article to a future Town Meeting. Mr. Martin suggesting to bring the topic back to the Board from time to time to discuss progress.

6. Approve Letter of Condolence and Welcome to Members of the Nashobah Praying Indians

Mr. Snyder-Grant attended a meeting at the Littleton historical society and welcomed back Strong Bear Medicine and family to the area, and wanted to acknowledge the Board's condolences for the loss of their Chief. Ms. Nicol consulted with the DEI Director about sending a letter of condolence after the planned ceremony a year ago had been cancelled. Mr. Charter cautioned about setting a precedence providing letters of condolences. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to approve the letter with edits suggested by Ms. Nicol and unanimously approved 5-0.**

Mr. Martin had brought up the proclamation regarding Indigenous People's Day and bringing it back to the Board for discussion and approval. Ms. Nicol noted that she had drafted a shorter version than was presented last year and consulted with the Town Manager, and DEI Director Wanjiku Gachugu.

7. Consent Items

Mr. Martin held consent item 15. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Charter to approve consent items 8-14 inclusive and 16-17 and approved unanimously 5-0.** Mr. Martin noted the date for the term of the license should be September 1, 2023-August 30, 2028. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve item 15 through August 30, 2028 and approved unanimously 5-0.**

III. Meeting Evaluation

Mr. Snyder-Grant felt meeting went well, the WACL discussion had right level of contention, the note about the letter of condolence came in late. DM appreciates the working session on the WACL branch.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to adjourn and approved unanimously 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.