



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 29, 2024

6:30 PM

ACTON TOWN HALL, ROOM 204
472 MAIN STREET

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

Additional Attendees: Town Manager John Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager Thom Begin

I. Regular Business

1. Resident Concerns

Terra Friedrichs— requested to speak about item 12 before Board decides about postponing the article at Town Meeting

Franny Osman, Half Moon Hill – requesting to get on a future agenda regarding the Acton Exchange and gave a brief history of the formation of the online town newspaper at actonexchange.org

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minute

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted this being the last board meeting before town meeting and has tentatively scheduled an additional meeting for May 1st in the event the override does not pass. He mentioned that tomorrow is the annual town elections from 7am-8pm; item 17 on the agenda will be moved off consent and added as a last new business item. Mr. Begin encouraged registered voters to go out and vote, noted the PAFR item handed out to Select Board members for FY2023, reiterated that Annual Town Meeting begins on May 6th and encouraged people to arrive early to get registered. Mr. Charter noted the Acton Garden Club dedicating the new garden in front of Town Hall with a reception in room 204 right after and congratulated them on their accomplishments; suggests Select Board members look at the town website for accuracy of town Board and Committees memberships; discussed McGovern Auto Dealership at 196 Great Road and their continued repeated violation of their site plan for that site by parking vehicles all over the property and noted the Select Board made safeguards for their new location at Nagog Park. He feels the dealership is disregarding the Site Plan Special Permit conditions of approval and suggests bringing in representatives to discuss repercussions of repeated violations. Ms. Arsenault announced Pat Hearn left the Agricultural Commission to start his own farm. Ms. Nicol thanked the Garden Club and the Acton Exchange and encouraged people to subscribe; congratulated the Memorial Library Staff and Trustees for the second annual Holi Event held last Saturday with over 300 participants; mentioned annual elections are tomorrow and encouraged residents to vote. Mr. Martin noted in addition to

the town election that Annual Town Meeting is in 1 week, with preview presentations available to view on the Acton TV website.

II. Public Hearing

3. 7:10 PM All Alcoholic Beverage Pouring License, Eve and Murray's, LLC d/b/a Silver Girl, 251 Arlington Street, Acton MA

Representing Silver Girl were Dawn Aguiar and Tamara Murray, owners of Eve and Murrays.

Mary Christ Maddox, Arlington Street – concerned about loud music, Ms. Aguiar noted they plan of offer jazz ensembles and would come back to the Board with an application for entertainment license application.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to close the public hearing and approved unanimously 5-0. Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve the all alcoholic beverage pouring license for Eve & Murray's, LLC, d/b/a Silver Girl at 251 Arlington Street, Acton and approved unanimously 5-0.

4. 7:20 PM Class II Auto Dealer License, Advanced Auto Sciences, 140 Great Road, Acton, MA

Representing Advanced Auto Sciences is Jason Wilford. No further questions.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to close the public hearing and approved unanimously 5-0. Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol and approved unanimously 5-0.

III. New/Special Business

5. Introduction of Director of Health and Family Services Penelope Funaiole

Mr. Mangiaratti introduced Penelope (Penny) Funaiole to the Board. Penny discussed her background, her recent attendance with multiple Board and Committees, and has been meeting with Human Services staff on a regular basis. She is acclimating to how local town government runs versus a city, since she is coming from Medford. Ms. Funaiole oversees the Health Division, Council on Aging, Community Services, Nursing Services, and Veterans' Services.

6. Presentation of Finance Committee's FY2025 Point of View

Christi Andersen presented the FY 2025 Point of View to the Select Board and what the potential effect the override vote will mean for both the school district and town operations. The Finance Committee recommends spending \$5.4 million of the potential \$6.6 million override in FY25, which will still reduce services, finding new sources of revenue, and recommends the creation of a task force consisting of multiple representatives from varied groups. Ms. Nicol suggests having the cost analysis be a future Select Board goal, suggests the task force recommendation is similar to the Acton Leadership Group and suggested utilizing members of the community instead with financial and budgetary experience such as past FinCom and Select Board members. Mr. Snyder-Grant acknowledged the

override amount and how it would affect residents with their tax rate, and explained how residents can obtain assistance on their tax bills through several tax relief programs at Town Hall.

7. Approve Resolution and Approve Letter from Select Board to Governor Opposing Hangar Expansion at Hanscom Airfield

Ms. Arsenault introduced a draft letter to the Governor on behalf of the Board opposing the Hangar Expansion at Hanscom Airfield. Mr. Martin discussed the draft letter, specifically if the project is a private project receiving public money and would propose removing language within the letter referencing public money. He suggested adding a statement regarding environmental justice. Mr. Charter does not support the letter or the resolution and feels that a small demographic is demonizing a small percentage of elite private jet owners. Mr. Snyder-Grant noted that the increase in private jets will lead to an increase of jet fuel which is a direct connect to greenhouse gas emissions and his support for both the letter and resolution.

Karen Watkins, Strawberry Hill Road and speaking out for Mothers Out Front, is thinking about how people utilize transportation in a more sustainable way and that MassPort will get income from land leased to developers with additional hangar. She discussed how, private jet use has increased 19% since the pandemic. Judith Aronstein – expressed concern with state of the future with post pandemic, elections, melting of glaciers, floods and extreme weather and looked at CO2 levels rising. She urged the Board approve the letter and resolution opposing the expansion at Hanscom

Stella Ko, Guswood Road speaking on behalf of Indivisible Acton – expanding hangars at Hanscom goes against the Town of Acton Climate Emergency declaration

Carolyn Davis, Brewster Lane – concerned the developers claim that the expansion will reduce approximately 35 ferry flights per day and reducing emissions being released, developer's data did not analyze the ferry flights, and not providing environmental impacts

Andy Platt – noted concern with the lack of engagement with the proposed expansion, stating the project is about private jets not corporate jets and stressed the climate emergency

Mr. Charter emphasized that even with the revisions to the letter he would still not be in support of the letter. Mr. Snyder-Grant summarized suggested revisions to the letter, to have the Board vote on approving a letter and have Ms. Arsenault revise the letter. Ms. Arsenault noted that the resolution was drafted as a template across several communities and Ms. Arsenault noted the comment period ends on May 10th.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to have Ms. Arsenault produce another draft of the letter with revisions discussed and approved 5-0.

8. Discuss Crosswalk Concerns at 149 Central Street (Infant Toddler Center)
Mr. Mangiaratti reviewed the request for crosswalk improvement and will include with the other crosswalk improvement initiatives in town, noting that if the Board prioritizes this particular request the town will pursue the request sooner. Mr. Charter noted that the intersection of Main Street where the proposed Dog Park and Senior park would make more financial sense for a flashing beacon crosswalk notification and encourages the Town Manager to look at alternative crosswalk options for that Central Street location. Mr. Mangiaratti read from a memo from the Town Engineer suggesting some creative solutions and have already considered working on the crosswalk.

Jude Aronstein, 3 Gregory Lane – Lincoln Center utilizes pockets at crosswalks with visible jackets and handheld stop signs for the public to use.

Madeline Cruz, Sachem Way informed the Board about the child hit on Great Road and still waiting for an improved crosswalk on Great Road at Sachem Way. Mr. Mangiaratti will look at the Town Engineer's suggestion of immediate improvements and look at longer term improvements to add for the current list of crosswalk projects.

9. Approve Process for Updating Sustainability Policy
Mr. Snyder-Grant updated the Board on the status of the current Sustainability Policy. Mr. Martin suggests having one Board member draft an updated policy. Mr. Charter suggests having 2 Board members involved in the updated draft and weighed in on the current internal sustainability working group being involved. Mr. Charter offered to assist in drafting the updated policy. Board will bring the edited draft back to the Board for further discussion and review.
10. Approve Proposal from Acton Food Pantry for Reuse of 19-21 Maple Street Pending Successful Negotiation of Lease
Lisa Gordon, Director of the Acton Food Pantry presented to the Board plans for Acton Food Pantry's reuse of the property.

Mr. Mangiaratti noted that the challenge was to find a productive use for the building and believes the Food Pantry is a good fit, but the challenge will be paying utilities and increasing MBTA parking space rentals to offset the costs of maintaining the building. Mr. Martin expressed concern in losing the ambulance intercept unit located there but understands the need for storage, suggests turning the first 10th of a mile of Maple Street to two-way to improve vehicle circulation away from the parking lot. Ms. Arsenault suggests consulting with the Historical

District regarding any renovations. Ms. Nicol questioned the amount of parking spaces reserved for commuters – Ms. Gordon noted only 5 will be reserved for the Food Pantry. Ms. Nicol questioned how the Food Pantry will help contribute to the cost of paving and removal of the shed, Ms. Gordon stated the Food Pantry is not in a position to contribute to the cost but would be willing to remove the shed, also noting that commuters could visit before getting on the train, returning to the South Acton station and visit, and also include the Boxborough MART van into the trip loop. Additionally, the second floor will be a smaller space for offices, or small group meeting space. Mr. Charter felt that small groups or their staff would be more appropriate for the space and not a public or municipal meeting space.

Franny Osman, Half Moon Hill – expressed concern about the location and the relation with the MBTA train and allow an accessible entry and pathway between the MBTA platform, and requests the building be accessible for public uses of the train station.

Ms. Nicol moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the proposal from Acton Food Pantry for reuse of 19-21 Maple Street pending successful negotiation of the lease and approved unanimously 5-0.

11. Approve 2024-2031 Open Space and Recreation Plan Letter of Review

Ms. Nicol presented to the Board the updated letter of review.

Ms. Nicol moved, seconded by to approve the 2024-2031 Open Space and Recreation Plan letter of review from the Select Board and approved unanimously 5-0

12. Discuss Request from Finance Committee to Postponing MBTA Zoning Article

Christi Andersen noted the Finance Committee is requesting the Board to request deferral of this article to Fall Town Meeting to allow more assessments and impact studies be done on MBTA zoning article approval impacts. Mr. Mangiaratti noted that staff have been working on public outreach and education of MBTA zoning for two years and adjusted plans.

13. Discussion of Logistics for Upcoming Town Meeting

Mr. Snyder-Grant feels confident on his prepared statement regarding the leaf gas blower bylaw. Noted that one candidate requested to have the vote for Citizens' Library trustees earlier. Ms. Jo-Ann Berry, Town Moderator, suggested moving article 1 immediately and transitioning right into the budget and school assessments articles. Once those are completed, Town Meeting would then consider and vote on the Citizen Library trustees. She noted this decision is based around the childcare provided onsite that night is only available until 9:30 then vote on consent items.

14. Approve Amended Town Manager Contract

Mr. Snyder-Grant commented on the discussion on the contract during an executive session and the need to finalize the contract as its current form is red-lined. The Town Manager would receive a 3.5% step increase to be in-line with other non-union employees.

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the Town Manager contract as reviewed in executive session and approved 5-0.

17*. Accept Disclosure by Non-Elected Municipal Employee of Financial Interest and Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee of Financial Interest for Christopher D. Brandon as Member of the Transportation Advisory Committee and Employee of Cross Town Connect

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted that the TAC is an advisory committee and not official decision makers, but to have the member pay attention if the TAC is suggesting changing the routes or anything that affects shuttle drivers. Mr. Martin is comfortable with this as he is a driver and not a decision maker but may have to recuse himself from a vote if it affects him as an employee of Cross Town Connect.

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to accept the municipal employee financial interest and including the determination the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from the employee and paying attention to votes on decisions that may impact the number of shuttles and approved unanimously 5-0.

IV. Consent Items

Item 17 was removed from consent and placed as a final item to discuss at the end of new business.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve consent items 15, 16, and 18-20 inclusive and approved unanimously 5-0.

V. Meeting Evaluation

Mr. Snyder-Grant commented on shutting off discussion on the Finance Committee Point of view that pivoted into discussion on the MBTA zoning, and noted his upcoming last meeting as Chair. Ms. Nicol questioned if there are any corrections to committee memberships whom to address it to, Mr. Mangiaratti noted to direct requests to the Town Manager's Office. Ms. Nicol commented that the Board did not feel that the Finance Committee request to postpone the MBTA zoning article wasn't valuable, and feels the public engagement sessions gave valuable information to the public to make informed decisions.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to adjourn and approved unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned 11:25 PM

Documents Used

- April 29, 2024 Agenda

- All Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Eve & Murray's LLC
- Class II Auto Dealer License, Advanced Auto Sciences
- Finance Committee Point of View Presentation
- Draft Letter and Resolution Opposing Hangar Expansion at Hanscom Airfield
- Infant Toddler Center Crosswalk Concerns Presentation
- Letter from Town Engineer Response to ITC Crosswalk Analysis Dated April 25, 2024
- Email from Jim Snyder-Grant on Background for Approve Process for Updating Sustainability Study Dated April 27, 2024
- Acton Food Pantry Presentation
- Open Space and Recreation Plan Letter of Support Dated April 29, 2024
- Email from Christi Andersen Regarding MBTA Zoning Article Request Dated April 24, 2024
- Letter from John S. Mangiaratti to Finance Committee Regarding Financial Impacts of Non-Compliance with MBTA Communities Zoning Bylaw Dated April 29, 2024
- Email from Jim Snyder-Grant Regarding Logistics for Upcoming Town Meeting Dated April 25, 2024
- Letter from Volunteer Coordinating Committee Recommending David Boccuti for Water Resource Advisory Committee
- Letter from Volunteer Coordinating Committee Recommending Nadia Byrnes for Acton Dog Park Committee
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure from Christopher D. Brandon
- Acton-Boxborough Farmers Market Application from Aaronap Cellars
- Acton-Boxborough Farmers Market Application from House Bear Brewery
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Applications from Nashoba Valley Neighbors Club, Tactical Reintegration Project, Powder Mill Animal Hospital, and Boston Area Gleaners