

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISIONER'S MEETING

September 11, 2017
Francis Faulkner Room 204
Regular Meeting 7:00 PM
To view the full meeting, please [click here](#)

Present: Janet K. Adachi, Katie Green, Joan Gardner, Chingsung Chang, Peter J. Berry, Town Manager Steve Ledoux, and Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary

Citizen Concerns

Terra Friedrichs – Mosquito spraying of GMO bacterial based substance – board is limited the # of streets to be sprayed – need public hearing and propose a policy using non-bacterial substance. Tree clearing process. H2420 Mass Wholesale rezoning law that smart growth alliance bringing forth. The town should do an investigation on this. Write letter to legislature regarding 40B development.

Chairman Update/Operational Update

Ms. Adachi – 9/11 Chairman's Update

9/11 ceremony this morning at PSF – always moving. With prayers, ringing of bell, bagpiper playing Amazing Grace. Fire and police officers stood in formation throughout the ceremony. Officer Jon Stackhouse shared very interesting biographies about 2 Acton residents who died on 9/11, Phil Rosenzweig and Amy Sweeney. Town Manager, Asst TM, and Dept Directors present, along with numerous residents.

Special joint meetings of BOS and Acton reps on the School Committee, Thurs, 9/7 to interview 3 candidates for SC vacancy. By nearly unanimous vote, group selected former SC member Dennis Bruce.

Hazardous waste day, Sat, 9/16, 9-11:30, 14 Forest Rd. See detail on Town website about what is acceptable and also what isn't acceptable.

-Senior Center move, as of 9/5, to 30 Sudbury Rd. Rec Dept has moved into former Senior Center Building at 50 Audubon Road.

Electrical aggregation, public info sessions on 8/31 & 9/7 – one remaining on Tues, 9/12, 1:00, Sr Ctr. Masspowerchoice.com/acton

Town conservation lands: recent instance of

1) someone installing a bench at Great Hill without making appropriate arrangements Town and LSC, and, worse, after creating concrete footings, simply dumping the extra concrete behind some bushes.

2) someone removing signs that NR installed to provide direction to trail-users in vicinity of Nylander Way. Signs gone and all the labor to dig post holes wasted.

Conservation lands under the purview of Natural Resources and Land Stewardship Committee, which do a lot of work to maintain trails, create new ones, ensure appropriate signage in place, assure maps in stock, etc. LSC has policy on memorial benches, so anyone wishing to donate a bench must confer with LSC. LSC isn't going to remove the unauthorized bench for the moment, but might have difficulty maintaining the area due to the bench placement.

Mr. Ledoux – 1st injury of kickball game – Land Use Director. Human Services and COA moved to 30 Sudbury. September 5th launched ALS service – thanks to Chief Hart and ALS coordinator Pat McIntyre and the state and feds to get the ALS license.

Public Hearings

Town Immigration Policy, Acton Police Department – Chief Rich Burrows gave an explanation regarding a proposed immigration policy and worked with several citizens and town groups. Currently does not have a research database on requests for ICE. Looked through logs and arrests and interaction with ICE. Have not detained persons regarding location or holding persons due to flags in the ICE system – they would tell ICE where the person was located – of the arrests, 1 was let out on bail and the others went to court. Currently the PD does not inquire a person's immigration status. Will keep records of persons arrested that have an ICE detainer. Ms. Green thanked Chief Burrows, Deputy Chief Cogan and the Police Department for their work on the immigration policy to make Acton a welcoming town. Good reflection of the value of our community. Ms. Adachi thanks PD Chief, Dept. Chief, Katie and residents on working on this issue. Commented on the policy being a good guideline for the BOS and a possible guideline for a future bylaw.

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – thanks BOS and Katie for proposing this policy. Mentioned about how her group worked with the Chief based on the policy in Cambridge

Dawn Wong – support police policy and provides very clear guidelines for citizens in town – appreciates the work involved.

Rabbi Mike Rothbaum – Jewish people know what it is like to live in society and being treated differently. Grateful there are municipalities taking upon themselves to have these policies. Encourage the Board to adopt the policies the Police Department have as a town.

Bill Romer, Audubon Hill – proud of the information regarding the PD and this community – should support this policy.

Resident requested to have publicity (regarding the police policy) to let other residents know what the police policy is for residents. Ms. Green explained that this was the reason why the public hearing is occurring and is posted on the town website and being recorded for television as well.

A group (non-town committee) gave a presentation regarding potentially adopting a town immigration policy. Presenting was Joris Wills, Terra Friedrichs, West Acton, and Paul Garber, 262 High Street. Feels the town should adopt a town policy on the solid grounds of the Acton Police Department. Read some statements of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Ms. Green commented regarding the proposed town policy and that certain town staff does have reason to inquire regarding immigration status such as the Community Services Coordinator who assists residents in applying for housing or fuel assistance, which is not a violation of state law. Ms. Green inquired if the board wants to go forward in adopting a town policy. Ms. Adachi inclined to have a formal policy with input from Town Counsel and cleaning up the language (according to similar police policy). Mr. Chang is looking to have it for Fall Town meeting and have counsel take a look at it. Mr. Berry supports the policy, also needs to look at the current (Boards and Committees) volunteer application where there is a question if the applicant is a citizen of the US and if they are a residential alien and may need to look into changing the application if this policy is adopted by the board and at town meeting. Ms. Gardner supports such a policy and congratulations to all who worked on this.

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – suggested adding a broader group of people to include beyond just immigration status.

Miram Lesak, High St – thanks the group for the work and the board and the police department
Danny Factor 11 Davis Road – impressed with the town and the collaborative effort of the police department and the BOS.

Wei Lee, 15 Hazelnut St – good policy and commented on Mr. Chang's suggestion regarding expanding the policy to include citizen establishment and country of origin.

8 Wingate Lane – Police Department supports the policy the town should support it (the policy).

Danny Factor, 11 Davis Road – agree to include a broader group of citizens as well

Ms. Green mentioned that the next step is to bring it (the policy) to counsel to review and expanding the language then bring a revised version back to the board for a formal vote.

SPSP #08-02-2017 - 468, Meadowbrook Condo Association Parking Expansion – Ms. Adachi read the public hearing notice. Representing Meadowbrook Condo Association is Thomas Schaejbe - the proposal is to increase the number of parking spacing from 47 to 70 total. Ms. Green inquired about the current parking situation - the representative from the condo association states the residents' park anywhere they can find space and would propose building a sidewalk without curbing. The Planning department sees it reasonable. The Condo Association is waiting for a response from MassDOT regarding building the sidewalk without curbing. If MassDOT denies it, the applicant would contribute to the sidewalk fund.

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – in favor of the parking increase and in favor of the sidewalk.

Ms. Green moved to close the hearing for SPSP #08-02-2017 - 468, Mr. Chang second. All Ayes

Mr. Chang suggests the lower rate for sidewalk installation or wait for MassDOT decision on the curbing requirement.

Ms. Green moved to approve the SPSP with comments from town staff and awaiting comment from MassDOT regarding sidewalk curb requirement. Mr. Chang second. All Ayes.

Liquor License Transfer, Liquor Outlet Inc. d/b/a Acton Wine and Spirit – Ms. Green moved to approve the liquor license transfer, Ms. Gardner second. All Ayes

Selectmen Business

Request for Waiver of Sewer Privilege Fees, Discovery Museum – Request has been dropped as the sewer rates were recalculated. No fee is required.

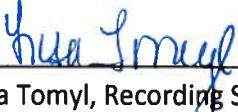
Eversource Rate Hike Municipal Opposition Letter Discussion – Deadline for comment has passed. Ms. Gardner would suggest authorizing the Town Manager to send letter regarding rate hike and explain the deadline date and receiving late notification, and include Senator Eldridge for distribution. Ms. Green second. All Ayes.

Board to Ratify Town Manager Contract – Ms. Green move to approve Town Manager contract for 2017-2018, Ms. Gardner second, All Ayes.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Green moved to approve consent items 7-19, Mr. Chang second. All Ayes

Mr. Chang moved to adjourn, Ms. Green second. Meeting adjourned at 8:45


Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary


Joan Gardner, Clerk