

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

October 16, 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, Peter J. Berry, Town Manager Steve Ledoux, and Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary

Absent: Chingsung Chang

Citizen Concerns

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – West Acton parking issue resolved – Citizen Library offers parking spaces. 40B discussion. H2420 Smart Growth Bill as a giveaway to developers. Need to know what the impact of development would be for the town. Counted 12 town vehicles in the parking lot and they could be parking at the fire station. Columbus Day – proposals for making it indigenous people's day to recognize the genocide that took place. Building project for schools no sustainability study attached with it.

Chairman Update/Operational Update

Ms. Adachi – Town Manager Search Committee is hosting a public forum on October 25, 2017 in 204.

Mr. Ledoux – Town entered purchase and sale agreement for 161 Newtown Rd. Game plan is to bring to fall Town Meeting for appropriation from the set aside fund. Remaining \$30,000 is ACT gift and remaining from free cash. Warrant article for a purchase and sale agreement using CPA funds at Town Meeting for 62 Harris Street. Paul Campbell has been promoted to Town Engineer. Corey York will be mainly overseeing Public Works and Engineering. Mr. Ledoux leaves for ICMA on Friday in San Antonio and getting his 40th year award and returning next Thursday. On the October 30th agenda Board will hear presentations from town departments and committees regarding CPA applications, and closing the warrant for the special fall town meeting.

Public Hearings

Extension of Operating Hours, Villa Mexicana – Representing Villa Mexicana is manager Carole Quinones. Ms. Green moves to approve change of extension of operating hours Thu – Sun from 11:00PM – 12:00 AM, Mr. Berry second. All Ayes.

Selectmen Business

Applicant Screen Process and Standards, Volunteer Coordinating Committee – Greg Hutchins, Chair of VCC. Questioned if the VCC had to take their own minutes since they had posted the meeting with the BOS. Ms. Adachi suggested that they comment in their minutes that they attended the BOS meeting and attached the minutes from the BOS. Mr. Berry began with a summary of the memorandum sent to

the BOS and commented on some of the questions and comments the VCC presented. Topics included conflict of interests with applicants. Commented on advising the Selectmen Liaison(for the VCC) direct if there is a potential conflict of interest (with an applicant). Mr. Berry suggests that they go to Town Counsel for suggestions in the language on the VCC application. Question about the citizen status on the application and if it should remain on the application. Ms. Green mentioned there is no formal charge for the VCC and after the discussion tonight perhaps write a draft charge for the VCC and bring back to the Board and have Town Counsel weigh in on the application and the language in the proposed charge. Mr. Berry stated about the issue of informing applicants if they are not selected - he has always been the person to inform the applicant that they have not been chosen to represent the committee as a member. Ms. Green commented on having that language written in the charge. Ms. Green addressed potential personality conflicts with applicants that come in with an idea of an outcome in mind for a committee. Mr. Berry mentioned that the VCC suggested having an HR department member on the committee (VCC) – suggested setting up a meeting with Town Counsel and HR Director. Questioned if they should interview and forward recommendation immediately after interview for new committee or interview all candidates and forward the recommendations from the list.

Volunteer Recognition Award Discussion – Mr. Berry mentioned about Selectman Short Term Goal about recognizing volunteers annually. VCC only interviews initial candidates and don't follow up with their service years and various committees. Discussed about (volunteer) length of service. Volunteers serve on multiple boards over a period of time. Mentioned limited service of 2-3 terms, but that hasn't been followed through as members are re-appointed every couple of years. There is a limit on the ABCC of 2 consecutive terms. Question on which committees that would be included. Mr. Berry recommended not including the Fin Com or Selectmen as they are appointed and elected. Mr. Berry recommends we (the Board) move ahead (with an award/recognition) and feels the special town meeting would be appropriate. Should come up with a general standard on how we recognize a volunteer. Need to limit the number of people. Suggests start with 5 volunteers. Ms. Green suggests starting with 1 award (of a volunteer) with a recommendation from each of the Selectmen in the running. Ms. Green suggests possibly doing it on the first night of annual town meeting in case there isn't any warrant articles that call for a special fall town meeting. Ms. Adachi was concerned about where to start tracking the service. Concerned about a volunteer being accidentally excluded by going with just 1, and mentioned that some volunteers go above and beyond in their role with a committee, even if they have served for a short time. Mr. Berry suggested that the BOS would come up with a narrative to explain how the volunteer is chosen and why they are awarding this award. Ms. Green mentioned that the current employee recognition is sponsored by the Steinberg-Lally Foundation and perhaps the Town Manager could find out of a business that may make a donation for the award like a certificate and suggested that the award should it be named after someone.

RTAC and LRTA Appointment/Re-appointment of Acton Representative – Ms. Green moved to re-appoint Mike Gowing to the LRTA, Ms. Gardner seconded. All Ayes.

Recreational Marijuana Law: Discussion and Guidance to Chairman about Certain Issues at October 3, 2017 MMLA Forum – Ms. Adachi went to the MMLA meeting regarding issues the marijuana statute. Ms. Adachi had 2 questions regarding the statute. Hesitant to pursue a ban (in town) on recreational marijuana without knowing what the outcome of the Cannabis Control Commission decision and regulations and is looking to submit a few written comments to the commission. One is to ask the commission to honor towns (including Acton if the article is approved at the December town meeting) that voted to and approved a moratorium. Board members were comfortable with the chair submitting comments to the Cannabis Control Commission. Ms. Green commented that she is not for a vote for banning recreational marijuana since the town voted to approve it at the presidential election, and feels it should not be a ballot in a local election.


Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – inquired when the next public hearing on recreational marijuana and if there will be a draft comment available for the public and what the Board's position on recreational marijuana shops. Ms. Green explained the vote of the board and the comment to be sent to the CCC. Suggested the board takes time to read up on marijuana, and suggest considering small farms have the opportunity for licensing.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Green moved to approve consent items 6-20, Ms. Gardner seconded. All Ayes. Ms. Green moved to adjourn, Mr. Berry second. All Ayes.



Lisa Tomy, Recording Secretary



Joan Gardner, Clerk