



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 2, 2020

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: Jon Benson, Dean Charter, David Martin, Joan Gardner, Jim Snyder-Grant, Town Manager John S. Mangiaratti

Absent: None

Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM via a virtual meeting with no Board members in physical attendance and broadcasted via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform before a motion to enter into executive session.

I. Regular Business

1. Citizen Concerns

Several residents spoke about racism in Acton and racial injustice in and provided comments and feedback about the Board's proposed statement regarding racism.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/ Member Minutes

Mr. Benson updated the Board regarding the Piper Lane closing took place on October 30th. He discussed the Multi-Year Spreadsheet submitted for review at the Acton Leadership Group meeting regarding the FY22 Budget. He shared the Finance Committee's proposal for using reserves instead of collecting 2.5% in taxes in FY22. The Finance Committee will be discussing at their November 10th meeting. Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board on several topics. The 100% plans for the Kelley's Corner Infrastructure project were submitted to MassDOT last week and will be under review for 60 days. The Kelley's Corner Steering Committee selected a temporary branding theme "Moving in Positive Directions" and will be further developed into temporary wayfinding and communication tools for the construction phase. The 10-year capital planning process is underway and we just completed the needs assessment. The acquisition of the Piper Lane property is complete, and will bring a proposal to the Board on the disposition of the building. A license agreement is being finalized to allow Muddy Water Coffee to store their mobile food truck in the 19-21 Maple Street Garage. The 19-21 Maple Street public input forum is November 5th at 7 pm. The public forum for the Asa Parlin property for potential concepts and re-use is November 12th. The Drive Up Window public forum will be held in December – current survey available on the town website. Acton was mentioned in the MMA weekly newsletter on the hiring of a virtual meeting coordinator. Election Day is 11/3, 69% of registered voters have already cast their ballot during the early voting period.

II. New/Special Business



3. 7:10 PM Site Plan Special Permit #09/08/2020-480, 67 Powder Mill Road – meeting to be continued to November 16, 2020 at 7:10 PM

Mr. Benson read the public hearing notice. Mr. Snyder Grant moved to continue the hearing to November 16, 2020 at 7:10 PM, Ms. Gardner seconded. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried

4. 7:10 PM Class I Auto Dealership, Koch Acton Inc., 137 Great Road

Chuck Daigle represented the application. There is a current Toyota dealership at that location; it will be under new management.

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to close the hearing, Ms. Gardner seconded. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

Ms. Gardner moved to approve the Class I Auto Dealer License, Mr. Charter seconded. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

5. COVID-19 Response Updates

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the Town Services Hotline and the recent inclusion of phone calls placed to the main number 978-929-6600 to enhance customer service efforts. Building Improvements recently completed using CARES funds such as HVAC improvements to create more fresh air using Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization systems at the Acton Memorial Library, Public Safety Center, and Public Works offices. The TJ O'Grady Skate Park is temporarily closed due to issues of skaters not wearing face coverings.

There are 13 current cases of COVID-19 in Acton, and the community level data map still shows Acton as a green town, however, the trend is increasing and may not be much



longer. The Governor issued a new Executive Order #55 beginning 11/6 at 12:01 AM for mask use, a stay at home advisory, and early closure of businesses and activities.

6. Review and Approve a Mortgage Assistance Program Funded through CARES Act

The Board approved an allocation of \$60,000 from CARES Act funds to administer the Mortgage Assistance Program which will assist 20 Acton applicants with \$3000 each toward mortgage relief through December 31, 2020. **Ms. Gardner moved to approve an allocation of \$60,000 from CARES Act Funds to administer to the Mortgage Assistance Program which assists 20 applicants with \$3000 each towards mortgage relief through December 31, 2020, Mr. Charter seconded. Mr. Martin called roll:**

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

7. Discuss COVID-19 Relief Proposal Related to Liquor License Renewal and Food Security Needs

Mr. Mangiaratti discussed with the Board a proposal for the 2021 Liquor License Renewal fees to assist both (Section 12) Liquor License holders and those with food insecurity needs. The proposal would be for the Board to accept a 25% reduction in liquor license fees and in return, restaurants offer up to 100 individual meals to a food distribution location. The Board members expressed initial support for the concept and there is interest in reviewing a proposal at the next meeting or first meeting in December.

8. Board to Discuss Statement on Racial Disparity

The Board had an extensive discussion regarding a statement addressing racism in Acton. The Board plans to complete and unanimously approve a statement at a special meeting on November 12th at noon.

9. Board to Vote to Assign Nina Pickering-Cook of Acton & Krieger as Primary Town Counsel

Ms. Gardner moved to appoint Nina Pickering-Cook as Town Counsel, Mr. Charter seconded. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried

10. Board to Discuss Main Street Dog Park Location



The Board deferred the vote on the Main Street Dog Park site to November 16th to allow more time for the completion of an agreement with the Isaac Davis Way neighbors on accommodations.

11. Tree Policy Discussion

Mr. Charter presented to the Board regarding a need to update the tree policy approved in 1991, a renewed interest regarding a tree protection bylaw similar to some surrounding towns and lastly, developing an over-arching policy on large land clearing operations. The Board generally supported moving forward pursuing updating the tree policy.

III. Consent Items

Ms. Gardner moved to accept consent items 12-14, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried

Ms. Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 Pm.

Documents Used During the Meeting

- Agenda, November 2, 2020
- Public Hearing Notice for SPSP#09/28/2020-480 and Agreement on Time Extension
- Class I Auto Dealer License, Koch Acton Inc
- Mortgage Assistance Program Notice
- DRAFT Board for Selectmen Acknowledging Racial Disparity
- DRAFT Policy Against Racism
- DRAFT Board Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Meeting Minutes, October 5, 2020
- Minor Amendment, SPSP #10/01/2018 – 471, Home Goods
- Accept Gift Memo from Natural Resources Dated September 22,2020