



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 7, 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.

I. Regular Business

1. Citizen Concerns

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – announced that Legends Café is offering free lunches and taking in donations of winter clothing items

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Benson thanked the Board for responding to the request for an additional meeting in December for the Tax Classification hearing. Additionally the board will receive updates on various projects currently underway, including the Minuteman High School Athletic Field construction project 1.9 million debt to complete the fields, the AHA option agreement, and there will be a tribute on 12/21 to Steve Anderson on his retirement from Anderson & Kreiger.

Mr. Mangiaratti noted new signs to be installed in public locations featuring Big Bird reminding people about social distancing, washing hands, wearing masks and staying home if not feeling well.

Mr. Snyder-Grant wish all a Happy Hanukah, ABCC giving money to artists, deadline for application in by December 14th, Ann Cochran leaving the COD, Mr. Martin commented on the school building project moving along, significant ledge removal occurring and will know next week when most of the bids have come in.

The Board took up the consent agenda early in the agenda as it was waiting for a scheduled public hearing.

Consent Items

Ms. Gardner moved to approve consent items 13-23, seconded by Mr. Martin.

Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye



Mr. Benson – aye
Mr. Martin – aye
The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

II. New/Special Business

3. SPSP #09/08/2020-480, 67 Powder Mill Road

The Board held a public hearing on the application of Old Mill Development Trust for a Site Plan Special Permit at 67 Powder Mill Road. The applicant is proposing a 6,059 square foot mixed use building to accommodate four dwelling units and one office space with a 9-space parking lot. The proposed project abuts the Acton Human Services and Senior Center at 30 Sudbury Road. Wetlands prevents vehicle access from the property's legal address at 67 Powder Mill Road. The applicant's planned vehicular access would be through the parking lot at 30 Sudbury Road under a Right-of-Way easement granted prior to the Town's renting the facility for the Senior Center and Human Services Department. Presentations were made by representatives of Acton's Council on Aging Board and the Commission on Disabilities concerning the critical safety of pedestrian and vehicular usage in the parking lot being used as the sole access/entry road to the proposed development. Mr. Snyder-Grant recommended continuing the hearing to allow the applicant and the Planning Division to address concerns from the Board and the public as well as conditions in the design. **Mr. Martin moved to approve continuing the hearing to February 22, 2020 at 7:10 PM, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant. Mr. Martin called roll:**

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

4. Tree Hearing, 5 Pearl Street

The Board held a public hearing at the request of the Tree Warden requesting the removal of a public shade tree at 5 Pearl Street. The root system of the 22" in diameter sugar maple tree was severely damaged by the developer of the two-unit townhouse complex at 5 Pearl Street when installing a sidewalk as required by the Board of Appeals. After hearing from Town Tree Warden Ryan Hunt and Selectman Dean Charter, and reading the report of an independent arborist, the Board concluded the maple tree was severely damaged and needed to be removed. The developer will be ordered to remove the tree in its entirety, including the stump, to repair the sidewalk, to pay the Town \$3,139 as the value of the tree, to pay the maximum fine of \$500 to the Town under state law and for the developer and the Town to use the \$3,639 for tree replacement at 5 Pearl Street and in and around West Acton. A concern was also raised about plantings in between the driveways impeding the access to the sidewalk.



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

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

Mr. Martin moved to deem the tree has been damaged, remove the 22' maple tree and stump, the developer to reconstruct the sidewalk, provide the town with the tree replacement value of \$3139, and pay a \$500 fee to be used for tree replacements in West Acton and at 5 Pearl Street at the discretion of the Tree Warden, seconded by Ms. Gardner. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

5. COVID-19 Response Update

Mr. Mangiaratti reported there are currently 60 Acton residents in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19. Acton has had a total of 389 positive COVID-19 cases since March. Mr. Mangiaratti urged that anyone who tests positive to immediately notify the Acton Health Department. A letter will be going out to all residents providing current COVID information. Weekly COVID updates are located on the Town's Website.

6. Discuss COVID-19 Reporting

Mr. Mangiaratti combined with previous agenda item.

7. Announce MassWorks Grant and Other Recent Grant Awards

Mr. Mangiaratti announced to the Board that Acton was awarded \$2.75 million grant under the state's MassWorks program to support building projects, road repairs and other community initiatives. The grant will be used for complete streets infrastructure in support of the Apartments at Powder Mill Place affordable housing development and upgrades, long term capital needs and infrastructure connections to the adjoining Adam's Street waste water treatment facility.

8. Discuss Potential Community Preservation Project Applications

The Board reviewed the list of proposed CPC applications presented by the Town Manager. The Board agreed through consensus that while all of the applications



discussed may move forward and be submitted, it deferred the discussion of whether to support any of the projects to a future meeting.

9. Review and Consider Approval of Letter of Support for Housing Choice Grant Application

Mr. Martin moved to approve the letter of support for Housing Choice Grant and Mr. Benson to sign, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant. MR. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

10. Board to Temporarily Appoint Acting Acton Town Accountant

Mr. Snyder Grant moved to approve appointing Joanne Norton as Acting Town Accountant, seconded by Ms. Gardner. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried.

11. Discuss 2021 Restaurant Liquor License Fee Waiver

Board generally agreed to continue discussion to December 14 meeting.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Agenda, December 7, 2020
- SPSP #09-08-2020-480 Application
- Public Comments for Tree Hearing
- Community Preservation Project Applications Email Summary
- Draft Letter of Support for Housing Choice Grant Application
- Email from Town Manager Regarding Request to Appoint Acting Town Accountant Dated December 4, 2020
- Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2020
- Executive Session Minutes, October 29, 2020
- Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule
- Accept Gift Memo from the Public Facilities Division Dated November 19, 2020
- Accept Gift Memo from Acton Police Department Dated November 17, 2020
- Accept Gift Letter from DCU to Acton Fire Department Dated October 29, 2020
- Accept Gift Memo from Recreation Department Dated November 12, 2020



- Accept Gift Memo from Recreation Department Dated November 16, 2020
- Accept Gift Memo from Recreation Department Dated November 30, 2020
- Accept Gift Memo from Recreation Department Dated November 20, 2020
- Accept Gift Memo from Recreation Department Dated November 24, 2020