



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 12, 2021 *Amended July 26, 2021*

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. It was a virtual meeting with no Board members in physical attendance and it was broadcast via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

I. Regular Business

1. Citizen Concerns

Several members of the public commented on social media posts and requests to stop the censure of public social media comments regarding the response on previous social media posts from the Chair, and disappointment regarding the Chair's comment at the previous Board meeting signaling out several specific members of the School Committee, and State Senator with an urge to change the tenor of future meeting and a better community conversation regarding racism in Acton, and a complaint about public comments not being accepted at the previous Board meeting, a request was made for a list of participants attending the Visions meeting. A suggestion was made to support to create a community center within the proposed 10 year capital plan.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Benson made a statement defending his actions at the Board's meeting of *April 12th* specifically indicating that he would not be apologizing after a request for an apology in a letter by Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee member Kyra Wilson-Cook. Mr. Martin question the appropriateness of the Chair's statement and **moved to overrule the Chair that the statement is inappropriate during the Select Board meeting, no second.**

Mr. Mangiaratti mentioned a new program with the Acton Police Department for a Liaison Division. It will be a leadership role that oversees all the different divisions within the Police Department. Issued RFPs for three projects; zero responses for two projects (3 School Street and 4 Piper Lane), and one response for the 26 Carlisle Road parcel for affordable housing. Acton-Concord Regional Dispatch: Have not heard back from the state, but working with the Concord Town Manager to see what the governance agreement will look like. Will review with both towns' Boards at future meetings. An internal working group is meeting to review what the strategic plan will be to utilize the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.



Mr. Snyder-Grant commented regarding the Acton Water District summer watering program allowing one day a week for lawn watering and three days a week for gardens. Mr. Snyder-Grant commented on his conversations with citizens concerned about recent social disruptions relative to the recent election and comments that were made at a previous Board meeting. The Braver Angles organization will be holding a virtual debate and discussion on May 2 regarding the ABRHS Colonials mascot. Visions Incorporated hosting educational dialogs including a group of town staff, school and local leaders. The Acton-Boxborough United Way is fostering dialog across all divisions. A suggestion was raised about the possibility of the Asa Parlin house to be used as a potential cultural center.

Ms. Gardner announced that the Planning Board is holding a hearing about the proposed Drive-Up Window Zoning Bylaw amendment on April 15.

Mr. Martin toured the new Douglas-Gates school building site; construction is progressing well. The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission is close to releasing its survey. At the 53 River Street site, an archeological investigation is underway using ground-penetrating radar and digging.

Mr. Charter is monitoring the North Acton Fire Station construction progress and anticipating completion in October. The Community Preservation Committee is close to consensus on all items under consideration, with continuing debate regarding the Dog Park and Gardner Field applications. Mr. Charter attended a presentation on “A History of Acton” hosted by Doug Herrick of the Historical Commission.

II. **New/Special Business**

3. COVID-19 Response Updates

Mr. Mangiaratti reported the town is getting ready to open to the public for full in-person services on May 3. The cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in Acton is 910. The town is still working with the Department of Public Health to possibly set up a combined multi-town vaccination center in Acton.

4. Board to Approve the FY22 Municipal Budget

The Town Manager presented the recommended Municipal Budget for FY22. The budget includes municipal operations of \$36,617,835, subsidies to enterprise funds of \$375,000 and capital projects of \$601,000 for a total of \$37,807,832. It represents a 2.56% increase over total Town appropriations for FY21. The proposed budget will be presented to the Finance Committee at its next meeting, and then to Town Meeting on June 21 for approval.

Ms. Gardner moved the Town Manager Recommended Budget consisting of municipal operations, subsidies to enterprise funds and recommended capital totaling \$37,807,832 be approved, seconded by Mr. Martin and unanimously voted by roll call:

(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)



5. Discuss Deadline for Submitting Nominations for Volunteer of the Year and Public Announcement Date

Members will submit their nominations to the Town Manager by April 26.
The ceremony will be scheduled for a date in late May and announced at a Board meeting in May. Lisa Tomyl will forward past recipients to Board members.

6. Discuss Date of Volunteer of the Year Reception

Board to discuss dates for the reception at its meeting on April 26.

7. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act: Request to Fund the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Community Food Program

The Select Board authorized \$85,220 from remaining 2020 CARES Act funds to reimburse the School District for Acton's proportionate share (85%) of its food services Community Meals program for food-insecure families in Acton and Boxborough.

Ms. Gardner moved to allocate the sum of \$85,220 from remaining 2020 CARES Act funds to the Acton-Boxborough School District Community Meals Program, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and unanimously voted by roll call:

(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)

III. Consent Items

Mr. Mangiaratti requested that Consent Agenda item 8 be passed over, as items were not ready.

Ms. Gardner moved to approve consent items 9 and 10, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and unanimously voted by roll call:

(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)

Ms. Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and unanimously voted by roll call:

(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Agenda, April 12, 2021
- Town Manager's Recommended FY22 Budget
- CARES Act Funding Request
- Accept Gift Memo from Veterans' Services Dated April 7, 2021
- Accept Gift Memo from Melissa Rier, Recreation Director Dated April 2, 2021
- *Email from Kyra Wilson Cook Dated April 6, 2021*