



## SELECT BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 20, 2021

7:00 PM

Town Hall Room 204 with In-Person and Virtual Public Participation

**Present:** David Martin, Dean Charter, Jim Snyder-Grant, Fran Arsenault, Himaja Nagireddy, Town Manager John S. Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager Mark Hald

**Absent:** None

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

#### I. Regular Business

##### 1. Resident Concerns

Nijan Datar, 15 Wyndcliff Drive expressed his opposition to renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day, as the United Nations has already declared August 9 to be Indigenous Peoples' Day.

##### 2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Martin had no updates to report. Mr. Mangiaratti announced a Household Hazardous Waste Day on Wednesday afternoon, September 22.

Mr. Snyder-Grant announced Oktoberfest in West Acton on Saturday, September 25 and the Commission on Disabilities will display its Kids on the Block puppets by volunteers.

#### II. Public Hearings

##### 3. 7:10 PM Site Plan Special Permit/Use Special Permit #08/04/2021-481, 9 School Street

Mr. Martin read the public hearing notice. Representing the applicant was Molly Obendorf from Stamski & McNary for a 6-family residential unit building at 9 School Street. The plans underwent a rigorous review by the Historic District Commission. The site is currently vacant land. Mr. Snyder-Grant commented on a memo from the Acton Water District requiring the owner to submit a water impact report so the District will know if fees will be required to connect to the water main. John Perkins spoke to the AWD and was told a fee would be involved to connect and will comply with any required water impact report. Ms. Nagireddy asked about any possible environmental impacts on the site; Ms. Obendorf commented on an existing stream that was considered with the current building plan had been approved by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Martin requested that the owner use heat pumps as opposed to natural gas for heating and cooling purposes. Comments from the public included Terra from West Acton requesting that roofs be put on the decks facing the MBTA train tracks. **Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Nagireddy to close the**



**public hearing and voted unanimously 5-0.** Mr. Martin would like to consider the items on the peer review to be addressed and replacing the proposed natural gas and air conditioners with heat pumps before any decision is made. Mr. Snyder-Grant commented that the peer review items should be addressed before a decision, and also the Town does not yet have the authority to mandate that developers install heat pumps versus natural gas, despite the recent warrant article passed at the previous Town Meeting. He encouraged the developer to consider the installation of heat pumps. Mr. Mangiaratti suggested that if the Board wishes the developer to consider its recommendations, to not close the hearing and consider continuing the hearing to the next meeting. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to re-open the public hearing and to continue to October 4, 2021 at 7:40 PM and voted unanimously 5-0.**

#### 7:40 PM Main Street/Prospect Street Redesign and Complete Streets

Town Engineer QinRui Pang and Rosie Jaswal from Toole Design presented the Prospect Street and Main Street intersection redesign concepts. The intersection was evaluated in 2018 for potential improvements, two public forums were held in 2018 and 2020 to incorporate public input with suggested improvements. Mr. Martin was in favor of concept D and requested the crosswalk be relocated across from the entrance to the Great Hill conservation land, and to have enough room between cars at the intersection for turning north or south onto Main Street. Mr. Charter commented in favor of Concept D, which allows for the possibility of adding traffic signals in the future. Ms. Nagireddy asked if accommodation for school busses turning onto Main Street was considered in the design.

Public comment: Terra from West Acton questioned if the previous concept that would make people go onto Main Street to get back to Prospect is now the change for concept D, and does not think adding traffic signals would be appropriate.

Ann Chang, Billings Street, concerned about the redesign and the new traffic flow with the potential of increased accidents given the queue lines during rush hour trying to turn north onto Main Street. Ms. Jaswal responded by explaining the design is splitting up the turning queue at the intersection. **Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Nagireddy to request the Town Manager move forward with concept D and voted unanimously 5-0.**

#### 4. 8:00 PM Public Listening Session, American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Mr. Martin commented that at the next meeting Board members should be prepared to list priority items that are under \$7 million to make preliminary decisions on spending. The Board will then request the Town Manager make a formal proposal for funding expenditure at its October 18 meeting. Mr. Mangiaratti outlined where the Board is currently in the process of decisions for approving the projects that will receive money from ARPA. Funding available includes a \$2,476,667 municipal allocation, plus a \$4,596,066 county reallocation. The public input period included presentations to both the Select Board and the Finance Committee, a public survey was made available on the Town website, public notices were sent through email,



social media and the website, the listening session today, and accepting public comments in writing to the Select Board before October 13, 2021. Mr. Martin opened up for comments from the public.

Kyra Wilson-Cook, Vice-Chair of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee – requesting funding for the ABRSD for mitigation strategies to recuperate in the amount of approximately \$2 million.

Dan Malloy, Economic Development Committee – advocating for support for the feasibility study for Great Road Sewer Project.

Jason Cole, 63 Nashoba Road – supports replacement of the shortfall in local receipts, items listed on the Capital Improvement Plan, no new full-time employees, no funding for the Asa Parlin House and Great Road Sewer Study, fund a mental health services for Town-wide services not solely focused for the school district.

Linda Vieira, Pope Road – asked how the Asa Parlin House and the Great Road Sewer Feasibility Study are related to the pandemic recovery. Requested adding a suggestion to fund community involvement in town government, specifically increasing voting turnout during town elections by sending out postcards to residents, and supports items P32-P41.

Larry Kenah, Chair, Economic Development Committee – supports the sewer feasibility study on Great Road corridor.

Terra, West Acton – supports using funds for rehabbing units, hiring a social worker, building a community center, and does not support the Great Road sewer feasibility study, and to continue funding rental assistance and small business relief.

Alissa Nicol, School Street – supports revenue replacement, support projects that positive impact on programs or people or business that have been negatively impacted from the pandemic, opposes construction of affordable housing and supports funding rehabilitating current housing stock, opposes the sewer feasibility study and sewer expansion to the Acton Housing Authority building project.

Erika Amir-Lin, Old Stonebrook Road and President of the Nagog Treatment Facility – requesting funding for the Nagog Treatment Facility in the amount of \$300,000 for financial assistance to update and support ongoing operations.

Barry Rosen, Acton Water District Commissioner

The Acton Water Board of Commissioners is requesting PFAS Mitigation funding of \$2 million.

Board members discussed areas of support for funding requests.

### **III. New/Special Business**

5. Consider American Rescue Plan Act Allocation for FY22 Revenue Replacement  
The Finance Committee endorsed using the ARPA funds to make up for the loss in local receipts. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Mr. Charter that the Select Board endorse the use of \$400,000 in ARPA funds to replace the shortfall in estimated local receipts revenue in the FY22 budget and voted unanimously 5-0.**

6. COVID-19 Updates



Mr. Mangiaratti announced that there was not much to report other than working very closely with Public Health trends and having weekly meetings with an internal COVID-19 team and encouraging employees to take advantage of COVID testing. Current case numbers are in the teens as of last week. The current number of active cases is 11 for total number of documented cases at 1,104.

7. Approve Intermunicipal Agreement for Temporary Health Inspector Support for the Town of Maynard

Mr. Mangiaratti explained that the Town of Maynard is requesting temporary assistance for Health inspections while they look to fill a current Health Director vacancy. **Ms. Nagireddy moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement for Temporary Health Inspection support for the Town of Maynard and voted unanimously 5-0.**

8. Approve Local Initiative Program Regulatory Agreement for 26 Carlisle Road, Acton  
**Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to approve the Local Initiative Program Regulatory Agreement for 26 Carlisle Road and voted unanimously 5-0.**

9. Indigenous Peoples Day Discussion

Ms. Nagireddy drafted a statement for the Board to consider. The Board opened the agenda topic to the public for comment.

**Ms. Nagireddy moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant that the Acton Select Board recognizes the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day, and, in accordance with the statement they voted in favor for on September 13, 2021, is dedicated to launching a process of consultation with indigenous communities and Acton residents with the intent of preparing a formal declaration to make Indigenous Peoples Day official in the Town of Acton within the coming months.** Mr. Martin suggested to have the timeline extended to the end of the fiscal year. **Ms. Nagireddy moved to amend the statement, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and voted unanimously 5-0.**

IV. Consent Items

**Mr. Snyder-Grant held consent item 11. Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant to approve consent items 12-17 inclusive and voted unanimously 5-0.**

Mr. Snyder-Grant questioned the location in the part of the plaza where Boston Market is and if the loading dock was specifically just for the portion where Boston Market will be leasing. Mr. Mangiaratti confirmed the leased location. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to approve consent item 11 Minor Amendment Site Plan Special Permit #7/26/00-372, 145 Great Road Boston Market, seconded by Mr. Charter and voted unanimously 5-0.**



**Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Ms. Nagireddy to adjourn and voted unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.**

**Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting**

- Agenda, September 20, 2021
- Site Plan Special Permit #08/04/2021 – 481 Application
- Main Street at Prospect Street Presentation
- Regulatory Agreement, 26 Carlisle Road
- Minor Amendment for Site Plan Special Permit, 07/26/2000 – 3742, 145 Great Road
- Grant of Easements, 243 Main Street
- Cemetery Rate Schedule Memo Dated September 16, 2021
- Refund Request Memo from Cemetery Division Dated September 3, 2021
- ARPA Presentation for Listening Session Dated September 20, 2021
- Email from Himaja Nagireddy with Indigenous Peoples Day Statement Dated September 24, 2021
- Acton Water District PFAS Mitigation Funding Request Presentation