

Minutes of the Acton Finance Committee Meeting MAY 10, 2011
7:30 pm – Faulkner Room Acton Town Hall

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk and with a quorum of members present, the Acton Finance Committee convened at 7:30 p.m. on May 10, 2011, to review various matters.

Members Present: Mary Ann Ashton, Maynard Brandon, Patricia Clifford, Robert Evans, William Mullin, Steven Noone, and Clint Seward.

Member Absent: Douglas Tindal; Vacancy: One member

Chairman Ashton convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. No members of the public came forward to address the committee at that time. In the absence of the Clerk, she dispensed with the discussion of Minutes of previous meetings.

As the next order of business, the Chair called for nominations of officers for the Committee for 2011-2012.

Mr. Noone, seconded by Ms. Clifford, nominated Mr. Mullin as Chair.

Mr. Brandon, seconded by Mr. Noone, nominated Mr. Tindal as Vice Chair.

Mr. Noone, seconded by Mr. Mullin, nominated Ms Clifford as Clerk.

Mr. Mullin briefly addressed the Committee, outlining his reasons for seeking the Chairmanship and emphasized he would focus on results, describing his approach as bottom line driven.

Chairman Ashton asked for separate votes on each nomination; the votes were all unanimous in the affirmative.

Ms. Clifford expressed the Committee's gratitude for Ms. Ashton's service in the leadership for the preceding three years.

Ms. Ashton yielded the Chair to Mr. Mullin, who distributed a White Paper outlining his goals for the months preceding FY13 budget development and opened a general discussion of reactions and responsibilities. Each of nine topics will have assigned owners and the deliverables will be prepared by October 1 for use in production of the Point of View. Several other topics were added for potential consideration including the potential regionalization of elementary school districts and the status and stability of Enterprise funds. A final version of the White Paper including assignments will be prepared for the May 24 meeting.

The Chair asked members to consider their committee observer and membership assignments to confirm with him any changes or adjustments. He also distributed a schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2011.

Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee for School Districts

Ms Ashton, a member of the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee, asked for comment on the draft Mission/Core Values statement as part of the first round of public input. She reported that community members can participate in an electronic survey and also in two public forums on May 12 and May 23.

Several members expressed reactions ranging from concern that cost is not part of the statement, how to measure the objectives, and the nexus between cost and services. It was concluded that the mission statement as drafted did not encompass the concerns of the Finance Committee and Ms. Ashton agreed to relate that reaction to her colleagues.

Committee Reports

CPC (Noone)	Award letters reviewed; presentation by owner of Exchange Hall regarding changes in project scope
2020 (Seward)	Public meeting scheduled for June 23
SATSAC (Clifford)	Final drawings of revised station to go out for design quotes
BOS (Clifford)	Ministerial; allowed Farmer's Market to offer wine
SCHOOL COMMITTEES (Ashton /Brandon)	Discussion of Superintendent's end of year purchasing initiative; power point and summary in FinCom packet; includes purchases and possible addition of 2 positions in FY12 budget
HIT (Evans)	All group costs over expectations in current month
MORRISON FARM (Mullin)	Committee reactivated by BOS

Committee Concerns

Mr. Mullin advised the Committee that he had met with the Transportation Advisory Committee to review his comments and vote at the pre Town Meeting meeting in April.

Mr. Noone asked the chair for an update on the status of the NESWC liability in view of the reported settlement by Wheelabrator on the fly ash litigation.

Mr. Mullin reported that the Moderator has appointed Paulina Knibbe as a member of the Finance Committee and Dennis Bruce as an associate member. He thanked Mrs. Ashton for her dedication to the Committee's work and the effort she spearheaded to re design the ALG spreadsheet to respond to the evolving needs of the leadership group.

Next Meetings: May 24 and June 7

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Clifford
Clerk-elect