

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

November 17, 2014  
Francis Faulkner Room 204  
Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Present: Mike Gowing, Katie Green, Janet Adachi, Peter Berry, Franny Osman; Town Manager Steven Ledoux. Lisa Tomy, Recording Secretary

Chairman Gowing opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **Citizens' Concerns**

Mr. Charlie Kabakoff questioned about what is next for the Acton Nursing Service as far as helping the agency. Requested putting something on future agenda. Mr. Gowing suggested an Acton Nursing Service Task Force.

### **Chairman's Update and Operational Update:**

Mr. Gowing – Veterans' Day breakfast at Holiday Inn Boxboro. Over 300 attended. Key note speaker overwhelmed by the volunteers of the Honor Students from Acton Boxborough Regional High School Honor Society. Special Town Meeting was successful and closed on one day. Acton Leadership Group meeting 7:30 AM November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ledoux – Acton Nursing Service – professor from Boston University School of Management mentioned about having interns assist with the future of promoting Acton Nursing Service.

### **Public Hearings and Appointments**

7:10 p.m. **Application for Full Liquor License, 525-537 Mass Ave, LLC** – Mr. Gowing read the public hearing notice. Mathias Rosenfeld was present representing 525-537 Mass Ave, LLC. Ms. Adachi Moved to Approve, Ms. Green Second. All Ayes, UNANIMOUS VOTE

7:20 p.m. **Change in Manager, Bickford's Restaurant, Daniel Goodwin**, – Mr. Gowing read the public hearing notice. Daniel Goodwin appeared personally. Ms. Green moved to approve, Ms. Osman seconded. All Ayes. UNANIMOUS VOTE

### **7:25 p.m. Action Items for Acton Arboretum Abutters on Taylor Road Discussion**

Town Manager Ledoux, Ms. Adachi, Corey York, Town Engineer, Tom Tidman, Natural Resource Director, and Chris Prehl, Traffic Enforcement Officer met with abutters on Taylor Road side of the Arboretum on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation Commission is planning on expanding and adding a separate entrance/exit to the Taylor Road side (one entrance/exit). Action items were noted and made and presented to the abutters. The abutters had some difference and disagreements with the action points and requested audience with the Board of Selectmen. Tom Tidman and Bettina Abe from Natural Resources had a small presentation for the Board. There was concern about the nursery that has had

Board of Selectmen

November 17, 2014

quite a few plantings removed – Mr. Tidman pointed out the plantings have been relocated to the Public Safety Facility, NARA Park, etc. Corey York stated that the proposed new entrance is that the site of the new entrance gives enough site line at 23 Taylor – so there is more site line/safety factor. Resident Renee Brozyna at 26 Taylor Road spoke in response to the overall presentation by Natural Resources. Some abutters spoke about the safety concerns regarding the traffic flow (increased commercial traffic), speed, visibility of oncoming vehicles. One non-abutter spoke in favor of the new parking lot as one that cannot use it during the winter (due to condition of the current status), and pointed out that the concern of the abutters is more of a traffic/speeding issue. A suggestion was made regarding installing a 3 way stop at Coughlin/Taylor.

Mr. Gowing stated that overall the paving is not the issue, and that it needs to be done. 2 issues are the second entrance and the speed on Taylor Road. Suggest taking another look at reducing the speed on Taylor, then the other problems would go away. Mr. Ledoux suggested to post more 25 MPH signs, and have the Traffic Safety Officer take another look with the suggestions from the abutters.

Ms. Green is in favor of original design with 1 entrance/1exit. Ms. Osman agrees with Ms. Green, Ms. Adachi is in support of the current plans. Mr. Berry supports the current design. Mr. Gowing agrees with the current design.

Ms. Adachi moved in supporting moving forward with the current plans and checklist of improvements with Taylor Road from the Action Points (speeding), Ms. Osman seconded. All Ayes, UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Selectmen's Business**

**Design Review Board Charge Discussion** – Ms. Adachi is proposing a revision in the current DRB charge. Ms. Adachi will provide an updated copy of the finalized proposed updates to the charge and the item will be placed on consent on the next Board of Selectmen agenda. Mr. Gowing would like to have some sort of “organizational tree” on how the Design Review Board flows.

**Senior Center Committee Discussion** – Ms. Osman is the liaison to the Council on Aging and Senior Center Committee. The charge was created October 10, 2014 and was advertised on the Town website. Some applications were received, but since then, it has never moved forward to create the Committee. Ms. Osman suggests of forming a sub-committee to confront the current issues (short term) at the Senior Center currently. Also to look into relocation vs. redevelop the current location. Ms. Osman stated the purpose of the meeting tonight is to get the committee formed and up and going. Ms. Green and Mr. Gowing clearly defined that a Community Center is excluded in the thought process regarding the Senior Center. Mr. Gowing also concluded that a Community Center is no less than 3-5 years away and requires a separate study. Ms. Osman requests to have 2 members of the Council on Aging as part of the Committee.

Ms. Green moved to change the charge the makeup of 10 members, 2 members of the Council on Aging, Ms. Adachi seconded. All Ayes, UNANIMOUS VOTE

### **Selectmen's Reports:**

Board of Selectmen  
November 17, 2014

Ms. Adachi: Acton Boxborough Cultural Council, 11/6 – Missed meeting due to competing League of Women Voters forum on Acton Nursing Service.

**Acton Community Housing Corporation, 11/6** – Missed all but first half-hour of meeting due to LWV forum. Housing Plan survey, 11/7-11/28, available for anyone to complete. Regional Housing Services organization expanding to include Burlington, which will receive services till end of 2014 via separate agreement with Concord. Maynard also interested in services, but on limited basis.

**Acton Water District** - Missed 11/10 meeting due to college reunion committee debriefing dinner. AWD meeting tonight. Agenda includes new groundwater protection zoning bylaw, preliminary warrant articles for AWD's 2015 annual meeting which is earlier in year than Acton Annual Town Meeting.

**Design Review Board, 11/5** – Ms. Adachi arrived late due to Moderator's pre-Special-Town-Meeting meeting. 400 Massachusetts Avenue owner/developer were scheduled to discuss proposed landscaping for TD Bank and CVS properties, but instead made informal, advice-seeking presentation about proposed next construction phase, involving shopping center at back/southerly side of property, with parking in front and restaurants anchoring; and restaurant to east of CVS with building rear facing Route 2. Ms. Adachi has shared DRB comments with Selectmen, and suggested DRB share comments with Planning Department.

**Finance Committee** – Forming subcommittee to study stabilization fund options and report back to Finance Committee.

**Water Resources Advisory Committee** – As noted before, draft stormwater bylaw that has been focus of WRAC is only small piece of federal Environmental Protection Agency regulatory permit, issued in draft in 9/2014 that will apply to Town when EPA finalizes permit requirements.

**Veterans Day observance, 11/11 at 11** – See report of Mr. Gowing. Highlight of annual ceremony is presentation of history of Acton flags.

**495/Metrowest Partnership, 11/12 (morning of Special Town Meeting)** – Presentation by MA Office of Business Development about Economic Development Incentive program in which Acton, and other more affluent communities now eligible to participate. State focus is jobs growth. But municipality can provide incentives (tax credits) for purposes that serve important local purposes, such as filling vacant commercial spaces. State still involved in review/approval of local incentives. Ms. Adachi circulated slides, other handouts to Economic Development Committee and Town Manager, who is looking at

economic-development-related issues, would have attended but for need to be present to address last-minute Town Meeting issues.

**Court of Honor, Eric Loverud, Troop 284**, 11/15, Boxborough United Church of Christ (town's only church) across from Town Hall. Ms. Adachi's 1<sup>st</sup> Court of Honor in Boxborough and for Troop 284. Each troop's ceremony has different rituals. Troop 284 includes presentation on the numerous levels scout must complete before reaching Eagle stage. Eric is a 3d-generation Eagle Scout, so grandfather spoke, in addition to parents and sister. Project was the new sign for Miracle Field at NARA (which Ms. Adachi explained was now the Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area).

Ms. Green: Missed Historical District meeting due to attending the pre-town meeting meeting. Missed the the School Committee Meeting due to being on the panel for the League of Women Voters, attended the Special Town Meeting, and missed the Recreation Commission meeting due to travel.

Mr. Berry: Sidewalk committee met and reviewed two subdivisions

Ms. Osman: Nov. 6- Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal MAGIC meeting- Mike Gowing, also present, can report. My small highlight moment was during Eric Bourassa's discussion of the Long Range Transportation Plan: comparing and contrasting possible improvements with limited funds in our area... rotary? Expanded transit options? Lots of support for first mile from train-last mile from train transit needs in these suburbs. Lively discussion, almost 13 towns present.

This was the meeting agenda: (MAPC is Metropolitan Area Planning Council)

3:00 pm Welcome

*Keith Bergman, Littleton Town Administrator, MAGIC Chairman*

3:10 pm Application Information for District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) and Assessment Technical Assistance

*Mark Racicot, Land Use Planning Director, MAPC*

3:25 pm Discussion of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) next Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

*MAPC Staff:*

*- Eric Bourassa, Director of Transportation Division*

*- Eric Halvorsen, Assistant Director of Transportation*

*Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), Boston Region MPO*

*- Anne McGahan, Chief Planner*

*- Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Improvement Program Manager*

Board of Selectmen

November 17, 2014

- *Natalie Raffol, Transportation Planner*
- *Michelle Scott, Unified Planning Work Program Manager*

4:35 pm Community Exchange  
*MAGIC Representatives*

5:00 pm Meeting Adjourn

Nov. 6- League of Women Voters event pre-Town Meeting

Nov. 6- Economic Development Committee (EDC) doesn't have a quorum, cancelled.

Nov. 11 Veteran's Day breakfast

Nov. 12- Attended Finance Committee presentation at the Council on Aging: state of Acton's finances, highlights from its annual Point of View document, latest info on Senior Tax Relief, how budgets are shaping up. Maryann Ashton and Bob Evans presented. Lots of questions, and many on the nursing service as it was about to be discussed that night at Special Town Meeting.

Nov. 12- Town Meeting

This coming Thurs., Nov. 20, is a meeting of the CrossTown Connect board-- towns and business members.

Mr. Gowing: RTAC – at the recent Regional Transportation Advisory Council meeting there were 2 presenters on healthy transportation planning policies and practices. The 1<sup>st</sup> of these: Steve Miller, executive director, healthy weight initiative, Harvard school of Public health and board of directors for Livable Streets Alliance. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was: Barry Keppard, public health manager, MAPC. Both discussed ongoing activity in linking health and transportation in project performance evaluation and selection processes. They identified many studies that supported walking/biking and traffic safety when traffic calming measures are put into place.

**MPO** – the Boston region Metropolitan planning organization presented their central vision statement, draft goals and draft objectives for public comment period. They also presented “Charting Progress to 2040” the Boston regions next long-range transportation plan. There was a robust discussion regarding scenario planning for the future and the best method for getting public participation. It was my 1<sup>st</sup> appearance at the table as a voting member (representing RTAC).

**HDC – the historic district** commission discussed the recent analysis of the paint color from town hall (which turned out to be a buff color with forest green shutters and quoins - white buildings were typically churches). They also discussed potential zoning changes in the historic districts in the process to bring them before the planning board and planning Department with the idea of an article for annual

Board of Selectmen  
November 17, 2014

town meeting. They ran out of time and had to postpone the discussion of sewers in West Acton until a future date.

**MAGIC** - members of the CTP S staff presented the same information that was presented at the MPO meeting except it was customized representing information that was relevant only to the MAGIC sub region of the MAPC. Both the magic plan and the general MPO plan can be reviewed on the MPO's website at [www.BostonMPO.org/DRUPAL/charting\\_2040](http://www.BostonMPO.org/DRUPAL/charting_2040) - both have some very interesting data dashboard tools that the public can use to determine population density, high crash locations, highway and arterial road challenges, etc.

### **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Green moved to approve 8-12. Ms. Osman seconded. All Ayes,

Ms. Green moved to approve item 7. Ms. Osman seconded. 4 Ayes 1 abstain (Ms. Osman)

### **Approval of Selectmen Issued Permits and Licenses for 2015**

Common Victualler All Alcohol (sec 15)– Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Retail Package Store All Alcohol (sec 12)– Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Adachi seconded. All Ayes

Retail Beer and Wine (sec 12) – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Adachi seconded. All Ayes

Common Victualler Beer and Wine (sec 15) – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Carry In Liquor (Brown Bag) – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Class II Used Car License – Mr. Gowing moved to approve excluding Northeast Collection 107 Great Road, suite 1+2, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Class I New Car License – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Adachi seconded. All Ayes

Entertainment License – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Bowling Alley – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

24 Hour Permit – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Automated Amusement – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Taxi Cab – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Taxi Driver – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

License to Tell Fortunes – Mr. Gowing moved to approve, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Common Victualler Seating - Mr. Gowing moved to approve on the condition any outstanding personal property tax be resolved, Ms. Green seconded. All Ayes

Board of Selectmen

November 17, 2014

Ms. Green moved to adjourn, Ms. Osman seconded, All Ayes

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary

  
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Peter Berry, Clerk

Board of Selectmen  
November 17, 2014