



TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

AUGUST 2023

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Subscribe!

Subscribe to our News Flash for news, agendas, and meeting postings delivered by email or SMS text message.

Subscribe

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday: 8 AM - 5 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 2:30 PM

TOWN HALL & HUMAN SERVICES

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday: 8 AM - 5 PM
Tuesday: 8 AM - 7:30 PM
Wednesday: 8 AM - 5 PM
Thursday: 8 AM - 5 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 12 PM
Saturday - Sunday: Closed

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

HOURS OF OPERATION

Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9 AM - 8 PM
Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 9 AM - 1 PM
Sunday: CLOSED

Do you have photos taken in Acton? Submit them to photos@actonma.gov and we'll feature them in future publications.

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Did you see the recap of the Climate Action Plan that was held on July 25? The Sustainability Office presented on our progress in the first year of implementing our Climate Action Plan. If you missed it, visit the new Climate Action Plan Tracker (click [here](#)) to see the progress and learn more.



We are continuing to find ways to improve how we serve our residents and businesses. This month I am very excited to announce that we are launching online building permits. This project involved tremendous efforts from staff in the Land Use, Technology and Finance Departments and was funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds. Using online permits in place of paper applications will streamline the process for staff and the public. Starting August 10, 2023, the Acton Building Division will be going live with online permitting. If you wish to submit a building permit including gas, plumbing, mechanical and electrical permits, please visit <https://acton-ma.gov/permit> to create an account.

I hope you are all staying dry during this rainy summer. Please continue to follow our social media channels (<http://www.actonma.gov/socialmedia>) to track latest updates on events.

Sincerely,

John S. Mangiaratti
Town Manager





POLICE DEPARTMENT - PROMOTION TO DEPUTY CHIEF

Doug began his career with the Acton Police Department in 2000 where he served as a Patrol Officer for 12 years. In 2012, Doug was promoted to Sergeant where he served as a Patrol Division Supervisor. During this time, he took on the role of Field Training Supervisor as well as the Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN) Liaison. In 2014, Doug was promoted to Lieutenant, serving as the Patrol Division Commander. In 2017, Doug took on the role of Detective Lieutenant, overseeing the Special Services Division which includes Criminal Investigations, Court Prosecution, Property & Evidence Control, Youth and Family Services, Traffic Unit, Community Relations, Dispatch Communications, and Accreditation.

DOUG J. STURNIOLO

As a Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission Assessor and Accreditation Manager, Doug led the Acton Police Department Accreditation Team to obtain state certification in 2019 and full accreditation status in 2021. Doug has a passion for health and wellness and is certified by the Massachusetts Police Training Council (MPTC) as the department's Fitness & Agility Test Coordinator and is a member of the First Responder Wellness Working Group for the Town of Acton.

Doug holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Anna Maria College, Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Western New England College, and a certificate in Local Government Leadership Management from Suffolk University. Doug has also attended numerous leadership trainings including FBI LEEDA Trilogy, MPI Executive Development, and the Police Chief Command Leadership Academy at Endicott College.



MEMORIAL LIBRARY - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LIBRARIAN

Rebecca Schmidt is our new Community Engagement Librarian! Rebecca holds an MLIS from Simmons University and is passionate about intellectual freedom. She worked in Western Massachusetts as a Reference and Instruction Librarian at Springfield Technical Community College in her most recent role, and also worked in various capacities with S. White Dickinson Memorial Library, Erving Public Library and Forbes Library Local History & Archives over the last few years. Prior to becoming a librarian, Rebecca worked as the Sustainability Engagement Coordinator at UMass Amherst. She will be based at the Acton

REBECCA SCHMIDT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Have you seen the **PINK** Signs popping up all over Acton? The Acton Economic Development Office is happy to announce the opening of Acton's first ever retail pop-up. It's being held for 8 weeks this summer at 577 Mass Ave in West Acton (next to Middlesex Bank).

The Acton Retail Pop-Ups offer fresh local flowers, jewelry, hand-made soaps & candles. The Pop-Ups are open Thursday to Sunday afternoons (hours may vary – check brand website) and Sundays during AB Farmers Market hours 10-2pm until *August 21st*. Participating brands include: Fluffy Dog Flower Farm, Girly Girl Soaps and iJewelShop. Their merchandise is in a sustainable Pop-Up "Opt-Box" (built in Maine) made of recycled plastic bottles--14,000 in number!

Visit actonma.gov/business for more information about the Acton 'Summer Pop-Up' and local business initiatives!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Chief James Cogan and Interim Fire Chief Anita Arnum are pleased to announce Acton Dispatcher Brendan Gray has been selected as one of five individuals from Massachusetts who will attend Communications Center Management Training offered by Fitch and Associates.

The advanced training will be funded by a \$10,000 grant from the State 911 Department.

The multi-part training program will begin online in August, and then transition to in-person training in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in both October and December, with participants taking part in online activities, assignments, and working on an intensive group research project throughout.

The Communications Center Manager's (CCM) Course is a one-of-a-kind program that presents the latest management and leadership practices used by emergency service providers around the world. It has proven to be successful for business leaders and students in implementing effective changes in today's communication centers.



Back to School Drive

Donations are currently being accepted to assist local children through the Community Services Office and can be dropped off at the following locations:




- Human Services Facility located at 30R Sudbury Road
- Acton Memorial Library
- Acton Citizen's Library in West Acton

The following are current needs for the upcoming school year: Back packs for all age groups, water bottles, lunch boxes, elementary supplies and supplies for middle and high school students. Please contact Laura Ducharme at 978-929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov for more information.





ARPA Childcare Subsidy Program

The Town of Acton has dedicated \$40,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to offer a childcare subsidy program

-  The program will provide grants to families in need of childcare in order to maintain employment, attend school, or seek employment through a job search
-  Participating families will receive \$3,000 to cover the cost of childcare or after-school care for children ages 13 and under
-  Funds will be awarded to eligible families under ARPA guidelines for household size and income limit on a first-come, first-served basis

To apply, contact the Community Services Office at 978-929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov



To see the application click [here](#).

TOWN OF ACTON MINUTEMAN BIKE SHARE LAUNCH



Join us with your helmet to kick-off Acton's portion of the Minuteman Bike Share program.

Enjoy refreshments, download the Koloni Bike Share App and go for a test ride!

RESCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER

Friday August 11th, 12:00PM to 2:00PM
at the East Acton Village Green

Learn more about the Regional Minuteman Bikeshare Program at <https://minutemanbikeshare.square.site/>





STAY TUNED

Main Street” Acton Small Business Energy Efficiency Program this September! We are excited to be part of the “Main Street” Massachusetts program to help small businesses reduce their energy use and save money.

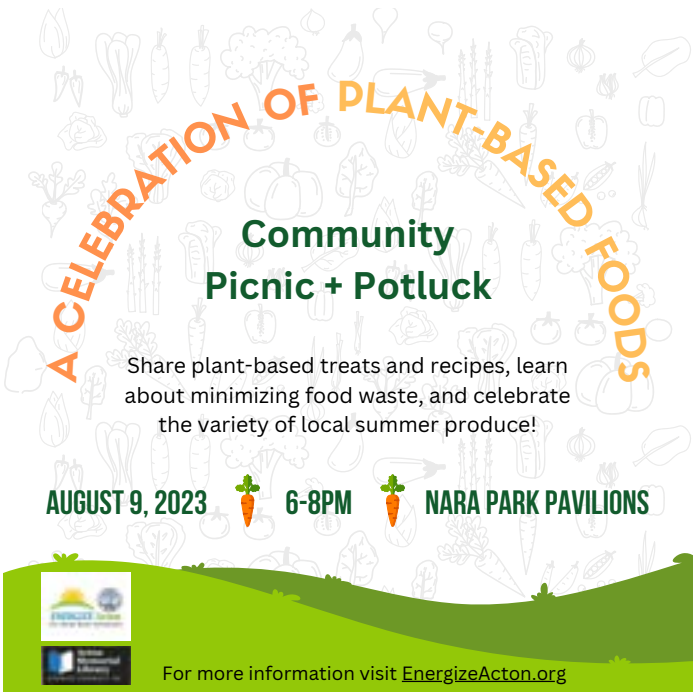
Beginning the week of September 11, 2023, the Town of Acton is collaborating with AECOM, our local Mass Save Sponsor, to bring energy savings to small businesses as a part of their “Main Street” Massachusetts program. Eversource will provide Acton-based small businesses with increased Mass Save incentives for weatherization and energy-efficient upgrades. Stay tuned for more details on the Main Street business energy efficiency program from the Town of Acton Sustainability Office & Sustainability Director Andrea Becerra at www.actonma.gov/sustainability & visit Main Streets | Eversource. PS Kudos to Bogi Boutique (new retail location at 133 Great Road Acton!) & Q Cleaner & Tailor (159A Great Road) both early Eversource business energy efficiency participants!



CLIMATE SAFE

Energize Acton, together with the Acton Memorial Library, has organized a series of exciting events every Wednesday this summer, 5-6PM! The events are open to the public.

Join as at our next event August 8th for yummy plant-based picnic!



WE'RE GOING ELECTRIC!

If you see a Kona Electric with a Town Seal on it, it's a good chance you might spot our Building Commissioner, Ed Mullen, behind the wheel. Feel free to wave hello! The vehicle replaced a gas-powered SUV as part of a broader effort to electrify our Town fleet.

The Council on Aging at the Senior Center offers services and activities for residents age 60+

- **Location:** Human Services Facility at 30 Sudbury Road Rear
- **Contact us:** seniorcenter@actonma.gov or (978) 929-6652
- **Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 AM to 5 PM, Tuesday 8 AM to 7:30 PM, and Friday 8 AM to Noon
- **Information:** Visit our website www.actoncoa.com where you can get the most up-to-date information and view our newsletter. Follow us on [Facebook @actoncoa](https://www.facebook.com/actoncoa)

For seniors and their family members seeking information on area social services, please contact COA Senior Services Coordinator Beverly Hutchings at 978.929.6652. She provides information on home care agencies, elder day programs, housing options, food and fuel assistance, and a variety of other services.

AUGUST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (SEE OUR NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS):

- **Presentation on the Webb Space Telescope with Kelly Beatty**, Tuesday, August 8, 1:00 pm
- **Discussion of the South Acton Action Plan**, Tuesday, August 8, 4:00 pm
- **Veteran and Surviving Spouse Benefits talk with Veteran Service Officer James MacRae**, Tuesday, August 8th, 6:00 pm
- **Great Songs from Great Movies Performance by David Polansky**, Thursday, August 10, 1:00 pm
- **Real Estate Seminar about Title 5 and Preparing Your House for the Market with Heather Murphy**, Tuesday, August 15, 10:00 am
- **Creative Ways to Navigate Life Transitions with Miriam Diamond**, via Zoom from home or Senior Center, Tuesday, August 15, 1:00 pm
- **All Things Books, meet Rebecca Schmidt the new Community Engagement Librarian from Acton Memorial Library**, Wednesday, August 16, 11:00 am
- **Beeyonder Virtual Tour of Cannes, France in real time via Zoom from home or Senior Center**, Tuesday, August 22, 1:00 pm
- **Starry Skies, Healthy Garden lecture on video**, Thursday, August 24, 1:00 pm
- **Memory Lane Café for those with memory impairment and their care partners**, Tuesday, August 29, 12 noon
- **Contact the COA about availability in programs concluding this month: line dancing, singing group, File of Life/Health App appointments, Words Galore**

OTHER ACTIVITIES: We offer exercise classes for all fitness levels, gym with senior-friendly equipment, drop-in activities including Laughter Yoga, LitLovers study group, and Mah Jongg. The caregiver support group returns this month on Tuesdays, at 3:00 pm via Zoom. Play pool anytime we are open!

MEALS: The Minuteman Senior Service (MMSS) dining site offers in-person lunches Monday through Thursday at noon for \$2 donation. Anyone celebrating a birthday receives a free lunch the second Thursday of the month! Grab and Go lunches continue to be offered Monday through Friday. Sign up for lunch at least 24 hours in advance in person or by phone 781-221-7098. MMSS offers weekday continental breakfast served from 8:30 to 10 a.m., featuring items such as bagels, yogurt, and juice. The COA partners with Open Table to provide free frozen meals as well as Healthy Helpings heart-healthy meal packages to seniors; contact the COA for more information.

MAKE A RESERVATION WITH THE COUNCIL ON AGING FOR SPECIAL CULINARY EVENTS:

- **Dinner by Doug, chicken kabobs**, Tuesday, August 8, 5:00 pm, \$5
- **Benchmark at Robbins Brook lunch, BBQ chicken**, Tuesday, August 15, noon, \$3
- **Pasta Dinner**, Tuesday, August 29, 5:00 pm
- **Drop by our popular lunch café**, Wednesdays from 11:30-1:30, all ages welcome, \$6

ART EXHIBIT this summer features the photography of Acton resident Alan Mertz.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: The COA summer intern, Naomi, led a singing group where she provided lyrics to popular songs and accompanied the group on piano. It made everyone feel happy and energized, so they would love for it to continue! Group would meet once or twice a month a weekday time to be determined. The leader would select the songs each week; accompaniment on piano would be wonderful but not required. This is a casual gathering rather than a structured choral group. If you might be interested, please contact COA Program Manager Chris Chirokas at ccchirokas@actonma.gov or 978-929-6652.

NEWSLETTER: If you are going to be away over the summer and have set up a Temporarily Away with USPS, please let us know to hold your newsletter. Your newsletters get returned at a cost to the town of 87 cents each - it soon adds up! Better still, let us take you off the mailing list completely and subscribe to the online newsletter at www.actoncoa.com and never miss an issue. We will be happy to add you back onto the USPS mailed copy in the future. Please contact us at 978.929.6652 or seniorcenter@actonma.gov.



Annual Acton Fire Department Cook Out at the Senior Center

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 9 AM – 8 PM

FRIDAY: 9 AM – 5 PM

SATURDAY: 9 AM – 1 PM

SUNDAY: CLOSED

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

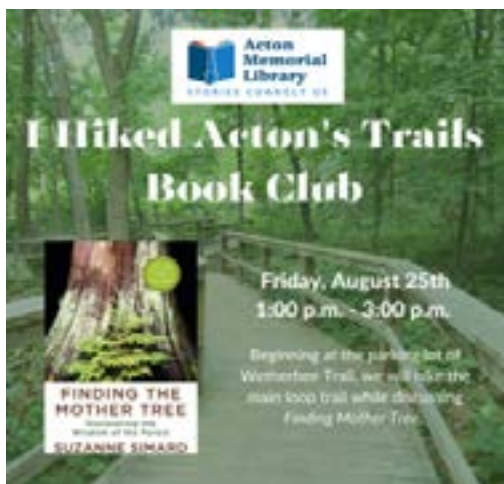
- **Chess Club, Mondays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
- **Baby Toddler Storytime at the Library, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**
- **Singalong Storytime with Mr. Robert, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**
- **Summer STEAM Workshop, Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
- **Preschool Storytime at the Library, Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**
- **Children's Crafting, Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
- **Pre-K to 1st Grade Crafting, Friday, August 11, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
- **Friday Gaming for Kids, Friday, August 11, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
- **Nueva Hora de Cuentos en Español, sábado, 12 de agosto, 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**
- **Hero Kids Roleplaying Game, Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**
- **Club 678 Workshop: Marbleizing Paper with Shaving Cream, Tuesday, August 15, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Read to a Dog, Tuesday, August 15, 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Puppet Show with Leigh Balzer, Wednesday, August 16, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
- **Sensory Storytime, Friday, August 18, 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- **Children's End of Summer Reading Party, Friday, August 18, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
- **Bilingual Storytime in Mandarin and English, Monday, August 21, 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**
- **D&D for 5th and 6th Graders, Saturday, August 26, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

TEEN PROGRAMS

- **D&D for Teens, Grades 7+, Saturday, August 5, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **Climate Café with Energize Acton**, Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- **Sourdough Starter Workshop with Sourdough Brandon**, Wednesday, August 16, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **Stampin' Up**, Thursday, August 17, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **Breathe for Change**, Fridays, August 18 and 25, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- **Stories Connect Us: Author Visit with Leah Thomas**, Friday, August 18, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- **Yarn and Needle Club**, Tuesday, August 22, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- **I Hiked Acton's Trails Book Club**, Friday, August 25, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Summer Concert Series: 2 Women, 10 Flutes: An Hour of Classical and Native American Flute Music**, Saturday, August 26, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.





**WHEN YOU'RE
FERTILIZING YOUR
LAWN, YOU MAY NOT
BE JUST FERTILIZING
YOUR LAWN**

**You can help prevent
stormwater pollution by:**

- 1 APPLYING THE MINIMUM
AMOUNT OF FERTILIZER.**
A little goes a long way.
- 2 AVOIDING APPLYING
FERTILIZER BEFORE A BIG
RAINSTORM.**
Stormwater can carry too much
fertilizer into the storm drains.
- 3 USING A SLOW-RELEASE
FERTILIZER.**
Nutrients are released more
slowly, extending the time
needed between applications.

  **CLEAN WATER**
SUPPORTS OUR BUSINESS




<https://www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org/>



PLEASE **SCOOP** **THE **POOPI****

You hate stepping in it. Fish hate swimming in it. Dogs produce a lot of waste which, if not disposed of properly, can end up in our waterways.

Do your "DOODY" to keep our local waters clean:

-  Pick up after your pet.
-  Dispose of pet waste by flushing it down the toilet or putting it in the trash.
-  Never throw pet waste into a storm drain or waterway.

For more information email *** or go
to www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org

the secret double life of donated textiles

NEARLY **100%** OF DONATED TEXTILES ARE RECYCLED! They are separated into three grades:

45%
USABLE CLOTHING



20%
FIBER CONVERSION GRADE



30%
WIPING CLOTH GRADE



Recycled fiber products **SAVE MONEY and RESOURCES** by using existing materials.



CLOSING THE LOOP

Recycled cloth rags use **LESS WATER, LESS ENERGY** and create a **LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT** than all other alternatives.



The second hand clothing market provides **AFFORDABLE CLOTHING** to those in need and **ENCOURAGES GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

SECOND LIFE ...



stained t-shirt → wiping cloth



lone sock → pillow stuffing



old denim → household insulation



teddy bear



→ car seat stuffing



torn bath towel → wiping cloth



SECONDARY MATERIALS® AND RECYCLED TEXTILES

The Association of Wiping Materials, Used Clothing and Fiber Industries

donate recycle don't throw away®



A PROGRAM OF SMART THE SECONDARY MATERIALS AND RECYCLED TEXTILES ASSOCIATION

Plan before you Plant

Plant the right tree in the right place for electric service reliability

Trees and power lines don't mix. When they touch, it can cause everything from power outages, fires and downed lines, to safety hazards for people, wildlife and even the trees themselves. Tree branches too close to power lines must be trimmed, and adequate trimming can't always be done in ways that retain the natural aesthetics of the tree.

Low-growing trees maturing up to 25 feet in height such as crabapple, dogwood, hawthorn, plum, and Japanese maple, can be planted near roadside power lines, in the **Red Zone**.

Medium-sized trees, maturing at heights of 25-45 feet, can be planted between **15 and 30 feet from the power lines**, in the **Yellow Zone**. Such trees include arborvitae, flowering cherry, magnolia, hornbeam, and shadblow.

Large-growing trees, reaching heights of more than 45 feet, should be planted **at least 30 feet from power lines**, in the **Green Zone**. Oak, maple, locust, spruce, and pine are some examples.

Plant Trees in the Proper Zone

Red Zone:

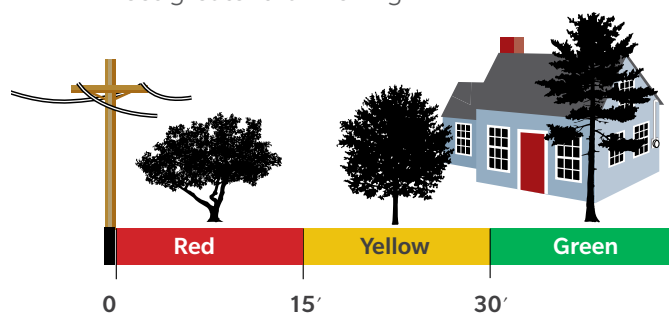
Trees less than 25' high

Yellow Zone:

Trees 25 - 45' high

Green Zone:

Trees greater than 45' high



Call Before You Dig!

Call **1-800-922-4455** at least two full working days before any type of digging. It's free, easy and the law.

Visit cbyd.com for more information.

Visit eversource.com for more information about our programs and services.

EVERSOURCE

LOW-Growing



Dogwood



Flowering Crabapple



Japanese Maple

MEDIUM-Growing



Arborvitae



Flowering Cherry



Magnolia

TALL-Growing



Maple



Oak



Pine

DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE - (978) 929-6600 | VISIT US ONLINE AT [ACTONMA.GOV](https://actonma.gov)

| Department | Phone Number | E-Mail |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Acton Nursing Services | 978-929-6650 | nursing@actonma.gov |
| Assessor's Office | 978-929-6621 | assessor@actonma.gov |
| Building Division | 978-929-6633 | building@actonma.gov |
| Cemetery Division | 978-929-6642 | cemetery@actonma.gov |
| West Acton Citizens' Library | 978-929-6654 | wacl@actonma.gov |
| Collector/Treasurer Office | 978-929-6622 | collector@actonma.gov |
| Community Resources Office | 978-929-6651 | lducharme@actonma.gov |
| Council on Aging | 978-929-6652 | seniorcenter@actonma.gov |
| Economic Development | 978-929-6611 | economicdevelopment@actonma.gov |
| Engineering Division | 978-929-6630 | engineering@actonma.gov |
| Fire Department | 978-929-7722 | fire@actonma.gov |
| Health Division | 978-929-6632 | health@actonma.gov |
| Highway Division & Transfer Station | 978-929-7740 978-929-7742 | highway@actonma.gov |
| Human Resources Department | 978-929-6613 | hr@actonma.gov |
| Information Technology Department | 978-929-6612 | it@actonma.gov |
| Acton Memorial Library | 978-929-6655 | actonmemoriallibrary.org |
| Natural Resources Division | 978-929-6634 | NR@actonma.gov |
| Planning Division | 978-929-6631 | planning@actonma.gov |
| Police Department | 978-929-7711 | police@actonma.gov |
| Public Facilities Division | 978-929-7744 | mpo@actonma.gov |
| Public Works Department | 978-929-7740 | highway@actonma.gov |
| Recreation Office | 978-929-6640 | recreation@actonma.gov |
| Sustainability Office | 978-929-6611 | sustainability@actonma.gov |
| Town Clerk's Office | 978-929-6620 | clerk@actonma.gov |
| Town Manager's Office | 978-929-6611 | manager@actonma.gov |
| Veterans' Services | 978-929-6614 | vso@actonma.gov |
| Acton Water District | 978-263-9107 | www.actonwater.com |