



ACTON PLANNING BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
February 6, 2018
Acton Town Hall
Room 204

Planning Board members in attendance: Ray Yacouby, Chair; Derrick Chin; Emilie Ying; Jon Cappetta; Also present: Roland Bartl, Planning Director; Katelyn Huffman, Planning Board Secretary.

Mr. Yacouby opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

I. Reports

Ms. Ying reported that the Open Space Committee was applying for monies from the CPC for open space acquisitions. Mr. Chin reported that the KCSC and Adam Winstanley presented to the Board of Selectmen for potential rezoning of Kelley's Corner. Mr. Yacouby reported that the CPC was deliberating about project proposals and funding. Mr. Cappetta reported that he would be attending his first West Acton Sewer Committee meeting. Mr. Bartl reported that the Town was awarded a State Grant to study the relationship between housing and economic development. This grant will receive an in kind match from the ACHC and the Citizen's Planner Housing Association.

II. Discussion – Potential Tree Removal Bylaw

Ms. Ying informed the Board that on October 18, 2017 the DRB had a discussion regarding a tree removal bylaw. They thought it could be beneficial to alter what the Town has existing in its bylaw and to potentially start a Tree Preservation Fund. They were unsure what it would cost the town. They also discussed the possibility of this being effective for demolitions or new construction only and the possibility of replacing trees in kind when there is the removal of trees.

Mr. Yacouby felt that it was somewhat arbitrary. He asked the board to consider if there is a true issue in town. If the Town were to implement this bylaw it may have unintended consequences. He also stated that it may be an expensive process due to needing an arborist assigned to the bylaw's implementation. Mr. Yacouby felt that it would be better to discuss tree preservation and removal with developers as they propose projects.

The Board unanimously decided that the topic was better suited as a general bylaw and for the Board of Selectmen to consider; and not for the Planning Board to pursue any further as zoning bylaw amendment.

IV. Minutes

Ms. Ying made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/17/17 and 01/16/18. Mr. Cappetta seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katelyn Huffman
Planning Board Secretary