

Volunteer Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2020

6:30pm

Emergency Operations Center, Public Safety Facility, 371 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Present: Gregory Hutchins, Michael Brandt, Hart Millett and Fang Yang

Absent: Xuan Kong

1. Opening

Chair Hutchins opened the meeting at 6:33PM

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the VCC's February 10th, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved as amended by a vote of 4 Yes.
- B. Update on Committee Openings/Appointments – Greg gave an update on Committee member appointments made by BOS since last VCC meeting, status of pending volunteer applications, and committee/board openings. Greg also informed the Committee that he has asked a Table Reservation Request Form at Annual Town Meeting, but has not received it from the Clark's Office.

3. New/Special Business

Hearing on Application by Patrick Hearn for Agricultural Commission

- Mr. Hearn is a retired engineer with BS in Mechanical Engineering. He is working to develop a small organic farm on his property in Acton. He has attended numerous classes/workshops related to farming and soil.
- Mr. Hearn is interested in preservation of local farmland and promote locally grown food for the community. In general, he is interested in land use planning and participating in guiding Acton's future landscape.
- Mr. Hearn states that he was brought into the Right to Farm Working Group, and later invited to apply for this Commission, by Natural Resources Director Tom Tidman. Their conversations began as Mr. Hearn sought Mr. Tidman's advice about starting his farm.
- Mr. Hearn states that he is on the Board of Supervisors for the Middlesex County Conservation District." His term will expire in July, 2022.
- Mr. Hearn will be able to attend the Commission meetings as scheduled.
- Mr. Hearn reported no apparent conflict of interest, though he is a farmer.

Motion to forward Patrick Hearn's name to the Board of Selectmen for further consideration to appoint as a member of the Agricultural Commission (4 Yes).

Hearing on Application by Erik Larson for Green Advisory Board

- Mr. Larson is an Acton resident for 4 year and a Massachusetts residents for 4years.
- Mr. Larson is an energy engineer with Guardian Energy Management Solutions.
- Mr. Larson has a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering, CEM(Certified Energy Management), and 10+ years experience in designing/developing high performance HVAC systems and upgrades for commercial buildings.
- Mr. Larson is familiar and experienced with many green energy programs which could benefit the local community.
- Mr. Larson has served in Baker Historic Neighborhood Association (BHNA), Denver, CO, 2003-2005, BHNA Permit Review Board, 2003-2005. He is the Vice Chair of PTO in Conant School, Acton.
- Mr. Larson reports attending a Green Advisory Board meeting and planning to attend two more.
- Mr. Larson believes he will be able to attend the Board meetings as scheduled.
- Mr. Larson reported no conflict of interest. However, his employer pursued work for the Town of Acton at some time prior to his employment. There are no current contracts in effect or being sought. Mr. Larson states that he would naturally recuse himself should the GAB ever be asked to make a recommendation on a contract for which his employer was a bidder.
- Mr. Larson reports attending every town meeting since moving to Acton.

Motion to forward Erik Larson's name to the Board of Selectmen for further consideration to appoint as a member of the Green Advisory Board (4 Yes).

Hearing on Application by Heidi Porten for Agricultural Commission

- Ms. Porten is an Acton resident for 47 year and a Massachusetts residents for 47 years.
- Ms. Porten is a middle school math teacher in Natick, MA. She has a Master degree in Education, a BS in Ornamental Horticulture.
- Ms. Porten served on the Right to Farm Working Group. She works in administration at her family's farm in South Acton, Cucurbit Farm.
- Ms. Porten believes that she will bring to the Commission a sense of urgency to save farming in Acton.
- Ms. Porten will be able to attend the Commission meetings as scheduled.
- Ms. Porten reported no apparent conflict of interest, though she is a farmer.

Motion to forward Heidi Porten's name to the Board of Selectmen for further consideration to appoint as a member of the Agricultural Commission (4 Yes).

4. Adjournment

At 8:20PM, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of February 10th, 2020.