



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 1, 2021

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: Jon Benson, Dean Charter, David Martin, Joan Gardner, Jim Snyder-Grant, Town Manager John S. Mangiaratti

Absent: None

Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. It was a virtual meeting with no Board members in physical attendance and it was broadcast via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

I. Regular Business

1. Citizen Concerns

None

II. Consent Items

Ms. Gardner moved to approve consent items 12-16, seconded by Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Benson welcomed the Acton Water District liaison Barry Rosen. Mr. Rosen introduced himself. Mr. Benson noted the next meeting for the Board is 2/22, followed by 3/1 when the Town Manager will be giving his Budget presentation.

Mr. Mangiaratti announced hiring Kristen Guichard as the Town's Planning Director and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Mr. Mangiaratti will discuss a feasibility study completed regarding possibly combining the Acton dispatch center with the Town of Concord. Fire station project is going well, and drilling for the geothermal well has begun. Mr. Mangiaratti reminded member and the public regarding the general election is March 30th, and the no-excuse mail in voting period has been extended to March 31st. To request an absentee ballot contact the Town Clerk's Office. Links to voting options are available on the Town website – Town Clerk page. The Board will decide on the location of in-person voting at their 2/22 meeting. The last day to request nomination papers is February 5th, last day to submit nomination papers is February 9th, last day to register to vote is March 10th, last day to submit the no-excuse absentee ballots is March 24th. Mr. Mangiaratti reminded Boards and



Committees to submit their annual reports for the Town Report, and the Piper Lane location has applied for a provisional demolition application with the Historic District Committee in line with submitting an RFP. The town has received technical assistance from the Baker-Polito administration to assist with wayfinding and ways to assist our business to help recover from the pandemic.

Mr. Snyder-Grant announced the EPA session about future uses of the WR Grace site, and wanted to add the web link verbally :www.epa.gov/superfund/graceacton . Mr. Snyder-Grant attended the MMA Annual Meeting in January and attended a meeting for new members of Boards of Selectmen, and suggests a future topic of evaluating best practices in regards to evaluations for employees reporting to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Martin updated the Board regarding the twin school construction. Utilities are coming in the Arlington Street entrance, so the entrance is now closed – traffic is re-routed to Spruce Street.

Mr. Charter attended a site walk on the Morrison Farm with members of the Agricultural Commission on 1/30. Agricultural Commission is looking to put a conservation restriction on the site in the future.

III. New/Special Business

3. 7:10 PM Application for a Change in Manager, Overtime Bar and Grill, 30 Great Road, Acton

Mr. Benson read the public hearing notice. Representing Overtime Bar and Grill was Ethan Robidoux. Mr. Robidoux has been employed by Teamworks for the past 10 years, and the management felt it was appropriate for him to be the manager for the bar area due to his hours of work. Hours of operations are 4PM-12AM. Ms. Gardner moved to close the hearing, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

Ms. Gardner moved to approve the change in manager for Overtime Bar and Grill, seconded by Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries



4. COVID Response Update

Phase 2 of the vaccine rollout began 2/1, and those 75+ are finding it frustrating locating or signing up for a vaccine. Mr. Mangiaratti encourages residents to contact the Council on Aging or the Town Services Hotline 978-929-6600 to assist in filling out an interest form, assist with finding a location for obtaining a vaccine.

Communities are only receiving 100 vaccines a week throughout the Commonwealth and the Town is working to vaccinate the most vulnerable in AHA residences and home bound seniors first. The town has received 22 applications related to the multi-town 1.6 million CDBG-CV Relief Grants of which 19 are from Acton businesses.

There are 685 total cases as of January, and 47 in isolation, adding family gathering/small group gathering as the largest spreader events.

5. Discuss Proposed Legislation Regarding COVID

Mr. Mangiaratti mentioned to the Board regarding the special legislation regarding allowing changes to elections, voting, town meetings, and conducting board and committee meetings virtually that had an expiration date of March 31, 2021

6. Approve Revisions to Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP) and Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the success of the MAP and ERAP programs that ended on December 31, 2020. There was funding left over and we are seeking authorization to spend the remaining balance, and shift \$28,349 from the Mortgage Assistance program into the Emergency Rental Assistance program.

Ms. Gardner moved to reallocate \$28,349 from the Mortgage Assistance Program to the Emergency Rental Assistance program, and authorize the town to spend all amounts from both programs by the end of 2021, seconded by Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

7. Update from Climate Coalition

Mr. Snyder-Grant updated the Board regarding the Climate Coalition, which is an organization made up of 38 Massachusetts communities and the Green Advisory Board regarding a follow-up from the last town meeting declaring a climate emergency, and a home rule petition for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Snyder-Grant is requesting a formation of an Acton-branded website in partnership or supporting MassEnergize that can be overseen by the Sustainability Director for events, teams, etc. Mr. Snyder-Grant requests to have town staff create a clean energy bylaw applicable to new construction and major rehabilitation of current property owners in the form of a home rule petition for Annual Town Meeting.



Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to ask Town Manager to work with town staff and town counsel to bring back to the Board a more formal warrant article for the Home Rule Petition, seconded by Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – nay

Mr. Charter – nay

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 3-2, the motion carries

8. Discussion of Board Vacancy

Ms. Gardner announced her resignation after annual town meeting on June 22, 2021.

Ms. Gardner moved to approve a special election on June 29, 2021 to fill the vacant seat left by Joan Gardner on the Board of Selectmen effective June 22, 2021, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

9. Open the Town Meeting Warrant and Set Date for Closing Warrant

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the date set for Annual Town Meeting on June 21, 2021, and requested the Board to open the Town Meeting Warrant, and set a date certain for closing the town meeting warrant for citizen petition submissions. The Board may still add additional warrant articles as seen as necessary after closing the warrant. **Ms. Gardner moved to open the warrant on February 1, 2021 and close the warrant on March 31, 2021 at close of business, seconded by Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin called roll:**

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

10. Consider a Further Modification to the AHA Option Agreement

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to approve further modification to the AHA Option Agreement, seconded by Ms. Gardner. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye



Mr. Martin – aye
The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries

11. Discuss Kmart Parcel

The Board continued further discussion of future uses of the Kmart parcel and listened to many citizen comments and results of informal polls on several social media sites. The results of the informal polls centered on high interest of a discount/department store, community center/gym, and a life-science research center with a retail/restaurant part. Further discussion of the parcel will take place at the next Economic Development Committee and Kelley's Corner Steering Committee meetings, and Mr. Benson will bring back the Board an update of those committee's discussions. The Board will continue its discussion at their next meeting on February 22nd.

Ms. Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin called roll:

Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye

Ms. Gardner – aye

Mr. Charter – aye

Mr. Benson – aye

Mr. Martin – aye

The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Agenda, February 1, 2021
- Change in Manager Application
- ERAP and MAP Update Memo Dated January 26, 2021
- Acton Home Rule Petition for Clean Energy Homes Document, Jim Snyder-Grant Date February 1, 2021
- Committee Appointment Recommendation for Nathan Cookson, Volunteer Coordinating Committee
- Request for Refund, Building Department Dated January 22, 2021
- Accept Gift Memo, Recreation Department Dated January 26, 2021 from Cathy Fochtman for \$5,000
- Accept Gift Memo, Recreation Department Dated January 25, 2021 from Shimon Ben-Shir for \$50
- Accept Gift Memo, Recreation Department Dated January 15, 2021 from Colleen Karney for \$70