



## SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes *Amended June 7, 2021*

Monday, April 26, 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

*Mr. Benson allotted public comment in two parts to allow concerns not related to comments about the status of the Chair, and 30 minutes specifically to comment about the status of the Chair limited to two minutes each.*

*There was a request to state how many public participants were in the virtual audience.*

*Several members of the public audience commented on past Board meetings regarding the Chair's personal comments, singling out elected members of the School Committee and a faith leader at the April 12, 2021 meeting, and a request to censure Mr. Benson with regard to limiting items discussed during the Chair Update portion of the meeting agenda. . Several members of the public audience spoke both in support and against the Chair retaining his current position.*

**Mr. Martin moved to elect Dean Charter as Select Board Chair, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant, and failed to pass by roll call vote:**

**(Nay: Mr. Benson, Mr. Charter and Ms. Gardner; Aye: Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)**

#### 2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Mangiaratti will be discussing his updates in some of the agenda topics.

Mr. Martin stated Commuter Rail service resumes in South Acton on May. Weekend services are still not operating.

Mr. Snyder-Grant discussed Acton Water District updates, that Barry Rosen was elected as Chair; Central well tests are going well; Construction of the new central water treatment plant is ahead of schedule, and believe the new plant will be ready in July. The solar array project on Lawsbrook Road should commence shortly.

Eversource has been granted approval for the solar installation on Knox Trail. The Land Stewardship Committee has been active in removing invasive plants.



## II. New/Special Business

3. 7:10 PM Site Plan Special Permit (SPSP) #09/28/2020 – 480, 67 Powdermill Road (continued from April 5, 2021 – applicant has requested a continuance to June 7, 2021 at 7:10 PM)

**Mr. Benson read the public hearing notice. Ms. Gardner moved to continue the hearing to June 7, 2021 at 7:10 PM, seconded by Mr. Martin and unanimously voted by roll call:**

**(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)**

4. COVID-19 Response Updates

Mr. Mangiaratti reported the number of residents currently in COVID quarantine is 13, down considerably from the 38 of recent weeks. The total cumulative number of confirmed COVID cases to date is 950. Town Hall will be re-opening for in-person customer service on Monday, May 3.

5. Presentation of the Recommended Design Concept for Reuse of 19-21 Maple Street Property

Corey York, DPW Director presented the history of the project including public forums held in October and November 2020, and February 2021 to gather comments and suggestions from the public on the possible re-uses of the property. Jason Novsam from Nelson/Nygaard presented their recommendations for the property. The preferred site concept includes additional car and bicycle parking, improved pick-up and drop-off and site circulation, new access point to the station and improved pedestrian connections, the re-use of existing buildings and improved landscaping.

**Mr. Charter moved to support the preferred site concept, seconded by Ms. Gardner and unanimously voted by roll call:**

**(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)**

6. Review Town Meeting Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 21 at 6 PM at the High School. As with the 2020 Town Meetings, the seating options offer a choice of indoors in the field house (upper gymnasium) and outdoors in the adjacent parking lot. There are currently thirty-nine warrant articles, including three citizens' petitions, of which twenty-one articles are anticipated to be on consent. Board Members offered initial preferences as to article assignments. Presentations will be recorded by Acton TV to display at town meeting, and the Town Moderator's preparation meeting is scheduled for June 16 at 7 PM.

7. Discussion of the Request for Proposals for the Surplus Property Located at 26 Carlisle Road

Mr. Mangiaratti informed the Board that only one proposal was received regarding the property on 26 Carlisle Road, previously taken by the Town for tax title. Habitat



for Humanity proposed a single family affordable home and offered \$1 and seeks additional Community Preservation and Acton Community Housing Corporation funding. The Board requested to revisit the discussion and review the RFP at its next meeting on May 3.

**8. Review and Consider Proposed New Select Board Public Shade Tree Protection Policy**

The Select Board adopted an updated policy on the removal of non-hazardous public shade trees by individuals or agencies other than the Town of Acton. The policy covers the valuation and compensation for public shade trees removed with the approval of the Town's Tree Warden.

**Mr. Charter moved that the Board adopt the policy on removal of public shade trees with an edit to tying in the details about the valuation, seconded by Ms. Gardner, and unanimously voted by roll call:**

**(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)**

**9. Approve the Date and Location for the Faulkner Award Ceremony**

The date and location will be discussed at the next Select Board meeting on May 3 as well as announcing the recipients of the Faulkner Award.

**10. Discuss Request from Resident to Sell 301 Arlington Street**

Mr. Charter commented on the property that was acquired by the town in the late 1950's. Mr. Charter requested that the Town Manager have the property re-evaluated for possible future vote to declare the property as surplus. The Board took no further action.

**III. Consent Items**

**Mr. Snyder-Grant held consent item 13. Ms. Gardner moved to approve consent items 12 and 14 through 20, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and unanimously voted by roll call:**

**(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)**

Mr. Snyder-Grant recommended re-writing the Executive Session minutes for more clarity and will be placed back on an agenda at a future meeting for a vote to accept them.

**Ms. Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and unanimously voted by roll call:**

**(Aye: Mr. Snyder-Grant, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Charter, Mr. Benson, Mr. Martin)  
Meeting adjourned at 10:06 PM.**

**Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting**

- Agenda, April 26, 2021
- Site Plan Special Permit #09/28/2020 – 480Application and Public Hearing Notice



- Public Shade Tree Policy Document
- Email from Mike Ewing Regarding Property at 301 Arlington Street Dated April 8, 2021
- Acceptance of Easement Document, 247 Main Street
- Acceptance of Easement Document, 257 Main Street
- Townwide Surplus Auction Memo Dated April 26, 2021
- Recommendation of Committee Appointment for Michaela Moran
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Maria Jarostchuk
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Deborah Nolan
- Accept Gift Memo, Recreation Department Dated April 8, 2021
- Accept Gift Memo, Recreation Department Dated April 15, 2021
- Accept Gift Memo, Recreation Department Dated April 20, 2021
- Request to Dispose of Obsolete Item Memo, West Acton Citizens' Library