



SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 16, 2021

7:00 PM

Town Hall Room 204 with In-Person and Virtual Public Participation

Present: David Martin, Dean Charter, Jim Snyder-Grant, Fran Arsenault, and Town Manager John S. Mangiaratti

Absent: None

Remote: Himaja Nagireddy

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There are 10 participants in the virtual audience.

I. Regular Business

1. Residents Concerns

Scott Smyers, Central Street – concerned about the lack of people not identifying themselves when speaking to the Board during public comments and Residents Concerns.

Charlie Kadlec, Paul Revere Road – concerned about a public comment made by "David from Great Road" at the July 26 Select Board meeting. Mr. Kadlec felt that the comment was directed at him, alleging Mr. Kadlec stated that racism in Acton is not a problem. Mr. Kadlec denied making such statements and invited "David" to explain why he made the false comment.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Martin had no updates. Mr. Mangiaratti announced that the Board of Health is meeting virtually and will be tracking their topics of discussion and will update the Select Board of any news that needs to be announced. The Public Safety Employee of the Year was awarded last week to Tricia Sullivan of the Acton Police Department; recipients of the Municipal Employees of the Year, Sheryl Ball, Director of the Health division, and Heather York, Director of Nursing Services, both who were instrumental during the pandemic, were announced earlier this year. The Local Rapid Recovery Plan Working Group performed outreach to businesses on Great Road last week with tabling events; results from the consultants will be available at the end of September. We received the architect's cost estimates and updated design plans for the Asa Parlin House; we will provide an update in September.

Mr. Charter noted a remembrance for two retired, long-time employees who recently passed: Town Clerk Ed Ellis and Firefighter Richard O'Leary. Mr. Charter suggested following up with the resident concern from Charlie Kadlec and regaining civility for future meetings, and enforcing proper identification when addressing the Board.



Ms. Nagireddy announced the Water Resource Advisory Committee is looking for new members, and that the Water Land Management Committee, a committee of the Acton Water District, is also looking for new members.

II. Sewer Commissioners

- 3. Approve Sewer Connection for 74 Main Street and Sewer Betterment Rate**
Mr. Charter moved to open the meeting as sewer commissioners, seconded by Ms. Arsenault and unanimously approved by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)

Mr. Martin introduced the process of sewer connection and the sewer betterment fee, but did not include the interest fee. The proposed interest rate is 1.55%/year. **Mr. Charter moved to raise the betterment fee from \$15/month to 1.55%/month, seconded by Ms. Arsenault and voted unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant).**

The sewer connection would be for 10 units with one unit not in the sewer district and already paid for. The Board discussed expanding the sewer district, but with some reserve that the Town's sewer consultant has not been consulted yet regarding potential impact. The project is in process of a hearing with the Planning Board, and is still open, and has been continued. The Board did not take up the request from the developer through the Engineering Department to approve the sewer connection.

III. New/Special Business

- 4. COVID-19 Response Update**
Mr. Mangiaratti noted the Board of Health is meeting tonight regarding State guidance on handling public health measures in public buildings. There were no new cases between June 12, 2021 and July 30, 2021; there are currently ten active cases in Town. Scott Smyers, Central Street, questioned how many people are hospitalized or recovering at home. Mr. Mangiaratti stated some of the information cannot be disclosed to the public. Mr. Smyers commented his concern about the upcoming school year and decisions that will be made by the School Committee.

5. Approve Rent Increase on Acton Housing Authority Affordable Units

Kelley Cronin, Acton Housing Authority has eight units part of LIP (40B). The rents were originally set at 80% of area median incomes (AMI). Rents have not been raised in years. The State proposed that the rates be set using the 2019 AMI. The rent would be \$1681 for 2-bedroom units. Rent is paid at 30% of the tenant's income. Ms. Cronin is requesting the Board to approve to set the rates at the 2018 level in 2022. Ms. Nagireddy and Ms. Arsenault noted concerns about raising rents for tenants at a time when many renters are challenged financially. Ms. Cronin noted that all tenants with rent vouchers would still not pay more than 30% of their income, and that the difference between the rent and the tenant payments provides income to the AHA. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to approve the rent increase as described in the memo from the Acton Housing Authority, seconded by Mr. Charter. Mr.**



Snyder Grant called roll: Ms. Arsenault – nay, Ms. Nagireddy – nay, Mr. Martin – aye, Mr. Charter – aye, Mr. Snyder-Grant –aye. The motion carried.

6. Appoint Tenant Board Member to the Acton Housing Authority

Ms. Cronin briefed the Board regarding the State regulations regarding requiring a housing tenant to be a member of the Acton Housing Authority Board of Directors. There were three applications submitted to the Town Clerk's Office. Applicants were given an opportunity to speak to the Board for consideration. **Mr. Snyder-Grant polled the Board, with each Member selecting Melissa Wingfield as their first choice. By the voting rules described by Mr. Martin, this meant Ms. Wingfield was voted in as the tenant representative**

7. Approve Local Initiative Program Application for the Local Action Units, Habitat for Humanity, 26 Carlisle Road

Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to approve the Local Initiative Program application for Local Action Units, for Habitat for Humanity at 26 Carlisle Road, seconded by Mr. Charter and approved unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)

8. Presentation of the Energize Acton Website

Andrea Becerra, Sustainability Director made a brief presentation regarding the new Energize Acton Website (<https://EnergizeActon.org>). Mr. Snyder-Grant commented that the website is a collaboration between the Town and a local community group, the Acton Climate Coalition, and that this collaborative arrangement is unique among the Towns using the Mass Energize website framework.

9. Discuss International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Invitation to Join the ICLEI150 Race for Zero

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board that the Sustainability Director weighed in on the invitation to join. Ms. Becerra informed the Board that the actions that ICLEI requires to join the ICLEI150 Race for Zero would be obtainable with the 2030 target date regarding climate action. The Board suggested that Ms. Becerra draft a statement. **Mr. Charter moved to direct Town staff to draft a statement to join the ICLEI150 Race for Zero commitment at a future meeting, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and voted unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)**

10. Appoint Liaison to the Regional Emergency Communications Center Board

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the governance agreement that there must be a liaison from the Select Board to serve in the liaison roll. Mr. Martin recommended Dean Charter. **Ms. Arsenault moved to appoint Dean Charter as liaison to the RECC Board of Directors, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant and voted unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)**



11. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds Update; Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Acton-Boxborough Regional School District and Information Technology

Mr. Mangiaratti briefed the Board members on the remaining funding from the CARES Act. There is approximately \$200,000 remaining and recommending to distribute just under \$100,000 for Information Technology upgrades, allocate \$50,000 toward the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and the remaining \$35,000 towards the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Food Program.

Mr. Charter moved to approve the funding expenditures, seconded by Ms. Arsenault and voted unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)

12. Approve Extension of Reduced Parking Rates of \$25 per month for All Reserved Parking Spots Through December 31, 2021

Mr. Charter moved to approve the reduced parking rate of \$25 per month for train station parking through December 31, 2021, seconded by Ms. Arsenault and voted unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)

13. Approve Private Way Plowing Fee 2021-2022

Corey York, DPW Director updated the Board regarding the 2021-2022 winter season. Private Way owners can submit a request for the Town to provide plowing service for a fee. **Mr. Charter moved to approve the private plowing rate, seconded by Ms. Arsenault and voted unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)**

14. Approve 9/11 Proclamation

Mr. Martin read the draft proclamation. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to approve the proclamation, seconded by Mr. Charter. Ms. Nagireddy requested to add “honoring the lives lost and their families” to the proclamation language. Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to approve the proclamation with the amendment, seconded by Mr. Charter and approved unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)**

IV. Consent Items

Mr. Charter moved to approved consent items 16-27, seconded by Ms. Arsenault and approved unanimously by roll: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant)

Mr. Charter moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Arsenault and approved unanimously by roll call: (Ms. Nagireddy, Ms. Arsenault, Mr. Charter, Mr. Martin, Mr. Snyder-Grant). The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.



Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Agenda, August 16, 2021
- Request for Sewer Connection and Privilege Fee Memo Dated August 11, 2021
- Acton Housing Authority Rent Increase Email Dated June 23, 2021
- Acton Housing Authority Tenant Board Member Appointment Memo Dated August 10, 2021
- Local Initiative Program Application for Local Action Units
- ICLEI150 Race to Zero Pledge
- Reserved Parking Rates Request Email Dated August 3, 2021
- Private Way Plowing Program Rate Request for 2021-2022
- Draft 9/11 Proclamation
- Meeting Minutes, July 26 and August 2, 2021
- Executive Session Minutes, July 26, 2021
- Draft Decision, Site Plan Special Permit Amendment #5/21/2020-479, 50 Nagog Park
- Letter from Digital Credit Union to Accept a Gift for \$5,000 for the Acton Police Department
- Memo from the Recreation Department Requesting a Gift Acceptance of \$50.00 Dated August 2, 2021
- Memo from the Cemetery Division Requesting a Refund for \$100 Dated July 23, 2021
- Memo from the Tree Warden Requesting Accepting Public Shade Tree Easements at 29 Prospect Street and 66 School Street Dated August 3, 2021
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Iron Works Farm on October 2, 2021
- Fee Waiver Request, Iron Works Farm Dated August 5, 2021
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Acton Boxborough United Way on September 10, 2021