



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 10, 2023

7:00 PM

ACTON TOWN HALL, ROOM 204
472 MAIN STREET AND VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant, Fran Arsenault, Dean Charter, David Martin, Alissa Nicol

I. Regular Business

1. Resident Concerns

Sam Bajwa, 82 Willow Street – owns 92 Willow Street and commented on the comments made by the tenants at 92 Willow Street and wanted to publicly correct the comments made at the previous meeting, noted the tenants had not made rent payments for 5 years, planning on demolishing the building, feels the tenants are harassing, threatening a lawsuit, appreciates the town assisting on finding public housing, but feels the tenants have done this before to previous landlords to delay the eviction process. Mr. Charter requested that the Chair allow him more than two minutes for his rebuttal statement since the tenant was given unlimited time, and the Chair denied the request.

Madeline Cruz, Sachem Way – commented that everyone has the right to defend themselves and everyone has the right to housing and the town should do what it can to help find them housing

Terra, Mass Ave – calls for people with lawnmowers to assist in mowing town land, disagrees the town getting involved with the eviction process, and the landlord should pay rent until tenants can secure new housing

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minutes

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted the Town Manager is on vacation. Last week started placing a document that records votes taken on each agenda item the following morning on the Select Board webpage and emailed to all Boards and Committees. Ms. Nicol noted a newspaper initiative for Acton and held a workshop in February and recently adopted a mission statement, filing as a non-profit, and currently publishing articles with the Action Unlimited Acton/Maynard issue. The first annual community read series was held with multiple agencies to promote literacy and community conversations. Mr. Martin noted Energize Acton is holding climate cafes every Wednesday at 5:00 PM behind the library with different topics each meeting. Mr. Charter noted the progress with the Acton Community Dog Park.

II. Public Hearings

3. Liquor License Transfer, Filhos Great Road, Inc. to Five Star Jolon, Inc., 59 Great Road

Mr. Snyder-Grant read the public hearing notice. Attorney Michael Gatlin represented the applicant. The applicant has a long history of experience in the restaurant business and will be the Manager on file with the restaurant. The restaurant will remain a family style restaurant with no change in the menu or requiring an entertainment license. The current operating hours will remain the same.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to close the public hearing and approved 5-0. MR. Martin moved, seconded by MS. Arsenault to approve the liquor license transfer from Filhos Great Road, Inc. to Five Star Jolon, Inc. at 59 Great Road and approved 5-0.

4. Common Victualler License, Five Star Jolon, Inc., 59 Great Road

Mr. Martin read the public hearing notice. No further questions from members of the Board. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to close the public hearing and approved 5-0. Mr. Martin moved, seconded by MS. Arsenault to approve a common victualler license for Five Star Jolon, Inc. and approved 5-0.**

5. Pole Petition, Eversource Energy, 362 Main Street

Mr. Martin read the public hearing notice. Representing Eversource is Christine Crosby. The installation to provide underground electrical conduit to 362 Main Street from an existing pole. No questions from Board members. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to close the public hearing and approved 5-0. Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve a pole petition allowing underground conduit to be installed to allow electricity to 362 Main Street and approved 5-0**

III. New Business

3. Discuss and Approve Charge for Public Works Facility Building Committee

Mr. Charter gave an overview of the draft charge. Several years ago, the Board approved a DPW Study Committee which was sundowned last year, it went to Town Meeting for funding for a 60% design and was approved, and now needs a new building committee. Mr. Charter will be reaching out for potential committee members, and may include former members of the DPW Study Committee for membership and will sunset upon completion of task – possibly a total of 3 years. Ms. Nicol noted previous emails requesting appointments to the DPW Study Committee and requested to make a concerted effort to have members with expertise in building, architecture, and legal experience, suggesting some associate members on the committee from the DPW Study Committee but focus on people with a particular skill set, and suggested outlining what type of public outreach will be conducted. Mr. Martin suggested adding language about communication with the Design Review Board or adding a member to the committee; members should be Acton residents and the committee shall sunset at a specific event. Mr. Charter will be reaching out quickly soliciting members and will be interviewing them and bringing them forward as a consent item for

appointment at a future Board meeting. Mr. Martin requested that the Board agree on who the Select Board member would be the liaison to the Committee, with the majority of the Board agreeing to have Mr. Charter as liaison.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve the charge for the Public Works Facility Building Committee with changes as outlined and approved 5-0.

4. Discuss Hanscom North Airfield Hangar Expansion Project and Next Steps

Mr. Snyder-Grant discussed the proposed an expansion of North Airfield Hangar. Also noted that Town Meeting passed a warrant article declaring a climate emergency. Mr. Snyder-Grant noted allowing the expansion would greatly increase the amount of emissions which counteracts the goal of the state reducing the amount of emissions by 2030 including Acton. Mr. Snyder-Grant is looking to see if Board members and members of the public were interested in pursuing opposition to the expansion plan. Mr. Martin questioned if climate change is the real concern and the reason to not allow it, and that people will use other airports for their travel and would not have that much more effect on climate change, suggested having a representative from Massport to explain why they want the expansion done. Mr. Charter noted that space is the current issue for the storage of planes. Feels that by relocating the planes to other airfields the level of CO2 emission is going to remain the same. Doesn't feel the Town of Acton should be involved in writing a letter of opposition. Ms. Nicol noted the actions that are appealing are the reduction of the number of flights with the expansion and should be concerned about noise pollution, agrees the proponents should present and feels that a separate letter from the Select Board highlighting the concerns of the Board. Ms. Arsenault questioned the author of the letter and would like to see a presentation from the proponents. Mr. Snyder-Grant will take into consideration the questions that Board members raised and return the topic at a future meeting.

IV. Consent Items

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to approve consent items 8-13 inclusive and approved 5-0.

V. Meeting Evaluation

Mr. Snyder-Grant looking for a fairer time limit policy, glad for a short meeting, need to be clear about what to read for a public hearing notice, pleased with Hanscom discussion but was hoping for direction to write a letter to the Governor. Mr. Charter suggested getting information into the packet as early as possible with the public not having access to late submission prior to the meeting.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to adjourn and approved 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Documents Used

- Agenda, Select Board, July 10, 2023
- Meeting Minutes, June 26, 2023
- Liquor License Transfer Application, Filhos Great Road to Five Star Jolon, Inc

- Common Victualler License Application, Five Star Jolon, Inc
- Petition for Pole Installation, Eversource Energy
- Public Works Building Committee Draft Charge
- Email from Jim Snyder-Grant Regarding Hanscom Expansion Dated July 10, 2023
- Meeting Minutes, June 26, 2023
- Letter and Packet from American Diabetes Association for Tour de Cure Request to Use Town Roads
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, KJ Herther
- One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Ellen Ferguson
- Memo from Corey York Requesting to Accept a Bench Donation Dated July 5, 2023
- Memo from Cemetery Division for a Refund Request on a Cemetery Plot Dated June 29, 2023
- Refundable Vacant Storefront Tax Credit Agreement with the Massachusetts Office of Business Development