



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 3, 2024

7:00 PM

ACTON TOWN HALL, ROOM 204
472 MAIN STREET

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant, Fran Arsenault, Dean Charter, David Martin, Alissa Nicol
Additional Attendees: Town Manager John Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager Thom Begin,
Executive Assistant Lisa Tomyl

I. Regular Business

1. Resident Concerns

Glen Cote, Strawberry Hill Road – requested the Board instruct the Town Manager to oversee a review of Acton Police Department’s policy and procedures regarding probationary police officers and whom they report to. Mentioned a recent violent crime in Acton and looking for a policy and procedures from the District Attorney’s office. Concerned about the response of the Acton Police Department, the GPS ankle bracelet on the abductor and how the Acton Police Department was informed of the individual in town.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update/Members Minute

Ms. Arsenault welcomed the new Acton Housing Authority Executive Director Melissa Bible; discussed the water main work being conducted at Main Street and route 111 at Kelley’s Corner and will continue through June 6th in the evenings; the DPW announced the paving schedule for improvements in various neighborhoods; NARA beach is open from 5/25-8/30 for both residents and non-residents with more information on the recreation page on the town website; and announced Narcan training will be conducted at the Senior Center. Mr. Snyder-Grant encourages Select Board members to review the volunteers in waiting section from the Volunteer Coordinating Committee and consider appointing those waiting to be appointed rather than reappointing current members of the various Boards and Committees and if members have any questions to ask the Town Manager or VCC; on June 8th from 1-4 pm a climate resilience festival will take place at Gardner Field; on June 11th Select Board members are encouraged to attend a webinar from Gas to Clean Heat supported by Mothers Out Front and Senator Jamie Eldridge. Mr. Martin noted the Finance Committee recommended to create a task force to look into financial spending; on Tuesday there is a free program about Juneteenth in Room 204 and all are encouraged to attend; Ms. Nicol noted the Health Insurance Trust met on May 23rd, the premiums for the

month of June will go to MIIA, the monthly claims from Feb-April were all over \$2 million dollars and will make payout of the claims difficult; the Acton Water District noted the level of PFAS reporting from the upgraded treatment facility was undetected over the weekend; watering restrictions are currently in place for 2 days per week since May 1st with more information on their website at www.awd.com; Citizens' Library Governance Advisory Committee met on May 21st and the two library trustee boards decided to have joint meetings during the summer. The CLGAC will resume their stand-alone meetings in September; Pride Festival will be held on June 15th at NARA Park. Mr. Charter noted another speaker series for the Acton 250 Committee and indicated Acton 250 will continue the speaker series through the fall; the Acton Lions Club Town Fair will run from June 13th – 15th at the School Street fields and all profits go to charitable entities.

II. Public Hearing

3. 7:10 PM Use Special Permit #04/22/2024-501, Let's Roll, LLC, 930 Main Street (to be continued to July 1, 2024 at 7:10 PM)

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted that the hearing will be continued to July 8th. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Charter to open the hearing and to continue to July 8, 2024 at 7:10 PM in Room 204 and approved unanimously 5-0-0**

III. New/Special Business

4. Update on 2023 Select Board Goals

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Select Board with some advancement on the current goals. Ms. Nicol questioned the library parking lot and questioned about any updates on the design. Mr. Mangiaratti noted the Design Review Board approved the landscaping design and Corey York has requested to be placed on the Memorial Library Trustees next agenda to review and solicit their input on the design. Mr. Snyder-Grant questioned if some long-term goals would need to be on the short-term goal list for 2025.

Terra Friedrichs, Mass Ave – requested the Board and Town relook at the housing trust since interest rates are lower and reallocate funding from local meals tax to the program. She questioned if the Select Board could notify the public that the goal setting listening session has begun.

5. Announce Schedule for Select Board Goal Setting and Public Input Process

Mr. Mangiaratti noted that he will be issuing a newsflash about the beginning of the listening session for goal setting for the public to submit suggestions and

noted the Board will hold their workshop on July 2nd at 4:00 PM in the Memorial Library Conference Room. Ms. Nicol requested a social media post as well.

6. LISTENING SESSION: Accept Public Input for Upcoming Select Board Goal Setting Workshop

Ms. Arsenault noted the listening session is officially open. Glen Cote, Strawberry Hill Road questioned if there was a document or policy regarding heat domes and how quickly a cooling center can be established, requests more public housing, no cuts to school budget, add more buses for transportation and add maps of bus routes using a Google platform.

7. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board on the status of project that received a portion of the \$7 million in ARPA funding. He notes that the funding needs to be fully expended by the end of the calendar year and noted the need to review the spending to be sure this is accomplished. He reviewed the prior appropriations by the Board, including:

- \$500K for wastewater discharge infrastructure and requested a portion be allocated to the North Acton Wastewater Treatment Plant for Nagog Park; Transportation received \$20K to purchase a 2nd CAT bus. However, through LRTA the Town was able to purchase an electric van that will be in service later this month and recommends running the transportation programs with ARPA money for the rest of the year (\$140K).
- The Board allocated \$80K for child care assistance and the Town is requesting an additional \$30K to continue the program to support 30 children into FY25.
- The Recreation Department is requesting additional \$50K.
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Mr. Snyder-Grant questioned if a future vote of the Select Board for the money reallocations would be required, Mr. Mangiaratti noted it could be brought back at another meeting if more information is required. Mr. Charter noted he would be willing to vote on the ARPA reallocation for the North Acton Wastewater Treatment Plant for Nagog Park, also suggested that remaining money in this allocation be reallocated for the DPW building design. Ms. Nicol is in favor of Nagog Park Treatment Plant funding, and feels the Gardner Field, 17 Woodbury and 53 River Street projects are not in line with ARPA funding aims. Mr. Snyder-Grant noted he was in favor of funding transportation and the Nagog Park

Treatment Plant. Mr. Martin agrees with priorities the Town Manager outlined, and would support the \$75K for the 53 River Street Park Project.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Charter to allocate \$217,115 of ARPA funds to the Nagog Park Water Treatment Plant 5-0-0

8. Discuss Next Steps for Main Street Sewer Extension, McManus Manor Project and Dog Park Project

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board on the status of the project which is on schedule and noted that he was notified at 5 PM today of the additional funding that was approved from MassWorks to fill the funding gap. He noted that the project recently went back out to bid and is hopeful the Town will receive advantageous bids that will allow the project to get underway, clearing the path for the senior housing and dog park project's down the road.

9. Approve Renewal of Intermunicipal Agreement for Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO)

Mr. Begin updated the Board noting Acton has been a part of RHSO for the last 10 years and the Town's share is funded by the Community Preservation Committee. The funding buys the Town hours of support from RHSO staff for affordable housing in the community, who also runs the small grant program for those services. Ms. Nicol recommends that the \$40K become a line item in the town operating budget, and questioned if a fair housing analysis could be conducted for affordable housing. Mr. Mangiaratti noted that fair housing analyses are conducted, and no problems have been found. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant to approve the RHSO IMA for regional housing services for this year and approved unanimously 5-0-0**

10. Discuss Initial Comments Regarding Proposed Intersection Improvements at Route 27 and Route 2 Eastbound Ramps

Mr. Mangiaratti noted the MassDOT held an initial meeting to discuss the offramp by Acton Medical and will be hosting additional meetings. He asked the Board members how they would like to participate and how they would prefer submitting their improvement suggestions. Mr. Snyder-Grant offered to submit comments from Board members and felt their concept of a proposed roundabout would most likely work well. Mr. Martin's only concern was that there are no planned bicycle paths aside from pedestrian pathways in the current plans. Ms. Nicol suggests submitting comments as a Board. Mr. Mangiaratti will respond to MassDOT regarding some of the comments and concerns Board members noted.

11. Approve Reserved Parking Rates for Both Maple Street Lots and Jones Field Lot
Mr. Mangiaratti noted the town is continuing to monitor the parking at the train station noting the current fee schedule and proposing to go back to the rates from 2019. Glen Cote, Strawberry Hill Road – suggested if the fee service increases then could the shuttle services be returned. Ms. Nicol questioned about using an app to be able to share parking spaces – Mr. Mangiaratti noted that each parking space is issued only one parking sticker. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve the reserved parking rates for both Maple Street lots and Jones Field lots and approved unanimously 5-0-0**

12. Discuss Board and Committee Liaison Assignments

It was noted that Select Board members are also a member of the MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council). Planning Director Kristen Guichard attends the meetings on behalf of the Board and requests Senior Planner Kaila Sauer be appointed as an additional representative. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved, seconded by Ms. Arsenault to authorize Kaila Sauer as an additional representative to the MPO and approved unanimously 5-0-0.**

Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to accept revised list of liaison assignments as revised this evening and approved unanimously 5-0-0

IV. Consent Items

Ms. Arsenault held consent item 15 and noted to correct date is 8/2/2024. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Charter to approve consent items 13, 14 and 15 and approved unanimously 5-0-0. Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to approve consent item 16 with corrected date of August 2nd and approved unanimously 5-0-0**

V. Meeting Evaluation

Mr. Snyder-Grant commented on Ms. Arsenault's conducting the meeting as the new chair and gave encouraging comments and suggestions. Ms. Nicol noted her surprise regarding the low attendance and input for the listening session for the Board's goal setting workshop and wanted to let the public know they can email the Select Board with their suggestions.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to adjourn and approved unanimously 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Documents Used

- June 3, 2024 Agenda
 - Public Hearing Notice, Use Special Permit #04/22/2024-501, Let's Roll, LLC, 930 Main Street
 - ARPA Update Memo Dated May 24, 2024
 - RHSO Update Presentation Dated May 13, 2024
 - RHSO Agreement Amendment
 - Reserve Parking Rate Memo Dated June 3, 2024
 - Meeting Minutes, May 12, 29, May 6, and May 7, 2024
 - One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Asude Yagmur
 - Accept Donation Memo from Boston Bijoux Dated May 14, 2024
 - Accept Donation Memo from Debra's Natural Gourmet Dated May 13, 2024
 - Accept Donation Memo from Dennesen automotive Dated May 24, 2024
 - Accept Donation Memo from Emerson Health Dated May 20, 2024
 - Accept Donation Memo from Not Your Average Joe's Dated May 13, 2024
 - Accept Donation Memo from Sal's Auto & Truck Repair Dated May 14, 2024
 - Accept Donation Memo from South Acton Gas Dated May 13, 2024
- Accept Donation Memo from Tables to Teapots Dated May 13, 2024