



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 4, 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 announced his candidacy for re-election and listed his accomplishments during his term as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Terra Friedrichs of West Acton raised concerns about “American First” signs seen around town.

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

Mr. Benson announced the next meeting to January 25<sup>th</sup> and there is a virtual program regarding Martin Luther King Ceremony on January 18<sup>th</sup> hosted by Temple Beth Elohim at 7 PM. The third quarter tax bills were sent out at the end of December and raised some concerns for citizens on social media. The recent bill reflects the three debt exclusion override that included the twin school, the North Acton Fire Station, and the new Minuteman School from Town Meeting a year ago. The estimate was approximately \$450 per family household and the increase in the tax rate, and the revaluations every 5 years. The first two quarters of FY21 the real estate tax return rate was at 99%.

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board that the Police Department is continuing its investigation regarding the incident that occurred during the School Board meeting last month and have no further updates to report. Mr. Mangiaratti announced that the RFP that the Board requested regarding the current house located on the Piper Lane property is in the final phases to be released, and will discuss the reuse of the house with the Historical Commission before sending the RFP out. Mr. Mangiaratti commented that the goal would be to find a purchaser to relocate it from the property, or partially reuse it. Mr. Mangiaratti mentioned the Acton Video Tour on the Town website as a great informational resource for both people that do not live in Acton or current residents to learn more about the community.



Mr. Snyder-Grant commented on the recent Climate Emergency resolution article that passed at the September Town Meeting and the most recent stimulus bill from the Federal level announcing significant energy legislation included in it. The Governor announced significant climate steps including eliminating fossil fuel cars by 2035. Charter is working with the Tree Warden on updating the Selectmen's policy on the removal of public shade trees. CPC starts the public hearings tomorrow on the applications for requests for funding from CPA funds.

## **II. New/Special Business**

### **3. 7:10 PM Amendment to Existing Traffic Rules and Orders for Stop Signs, Yield Signs, and Through Ways Hearing**

Corey York, DPW Director requested to install a 5 way stop sign intersection after a recent threshold study at Liberty Street northbound at Stow Street, Martin Street both approaches at Stow Street, Stow Street eastbound at Liberty Street, and Stow Street westbound at Martin Street. The proposal would be to also install "Stop Ahead" signs to warn drivers of an upcoming stop sign on each road.

**Ms. Gardner moved to close the hearing, 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 carried.**

**Ms. Gardner moved seconded by Mr. Martin to approve that the traffic rules and orders adopted by the Board of Selectmen under date of September 22, 2014, are hereby amended by adding to Article VII, Section 7-11 (Stop Signs, Yield Signs, Through Ways) the following new stop sign locations:**

**Liberty Street northbound at Stow Street, Martin Street both approaches at Stow Street, Stow Street eastbound at Liberty Street, and Stow Street westbound at Martin Street.**

**Mr. Martin called roll:**

**Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye**

**Ms. Gardner – aye**

**Mr. Benson – aye**

**Mr. Charter – aye**

**Mr. Martin – aye**

**The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried**

### **4. COVID Response Update**



Mr. Mangiaratti informed the Board of an increase in new COVID cases since the end of December. There are 49 residents currently in isolation, and a total of 544 confirmed cases in town. The town's first responders are scheduled to receive their first of a two part vaccination series next week in conjunction with the Nashoba Board of Health.

5. Board to Approve Request for 50% Reduction in Automated Amusement Devices from 50 to 25 from Acton Bowladrome due to COVID Restrictions

Mr. Mangiaratti informed the Board that the owner of Acton Bowladrome is requesting to reduce the number of automated amusement devices due to COVID restrictions in place to decrease the total amount owed on his license for 2021.

**Ms. Gardner moved to approve request for 50% reduction in automated amusement devices from 50 to 25, seconded by Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin called roll:**

**Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye**

**Ms. Gardner – aye**

**Mr. Benson – aye**

**Mr. Charter – aye**

**Mr. Martin – aye**

**The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried**

6. Discuss Proposed Active Bystander Training

Mr. Benson explained that the Board received a letter from Sarah Coletti, Chair of Na'aseh, Social Justice Committee of Congregation Beth Elohim urging the Board to provide a form of Active Bystander Training program in town. Mr. Mangiaratti reached out to the organization to obtain more information on what companies or people provide this type of training. Currently there is an internal working group that provides diversity training to town staff annually, and will be having staff training in February. Mr. Mangiaratti offered to the Board to hold a second training geared more towards volunteers on Board and Committees. Board members supported holding diversity training for members of all Boards and Committees. Board members requested the Town Manager further research holding Active Bystander training.

7. Discussion of the Response for Proposals for the Surplus Property Located at 3 School Street

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the surplus property located at 3 School Street. An RFP went out last winter, and the one submittal was not favorable financially-wise, a second proposal went out a few weeks ago with one return from Habitat for Humanity proposing an affordable housing unit. Mr. Mangiaratti discussed with the Board to consider postponing any approval of the RFP as there will be another RFP shortly regarding item 8 on the agenda and to possibly consider both RFP proposals simultaneously. The Board agreed with Mr. Mangiaratti's request.



8. Discussion on the Proposed Request for Proposal to Dispose of the Property Located at 26 Carlisle Road

Mr. Mangiaratti updated the Board regarding the property that had been taken for tax possession several years ago and would like to put out an RFP for affordable housing. The Board agreed to have the Town Manager pursue an RFP for affordable housing at the location.

**III. Consent Items**

**Ms. Gardner moved to approve consent items 9-12, seconded by Mr. Martin.**

**Mr. Martin called roll:**

**Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye**

**Ms. Gardner – aye**

**Mr. Benson – aye**

**Mr. Charter – aye**

**Mr. Martin – aye**

**The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried**

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

**Mr. Snyder-Grant – aye**

**Ms. Gardner – aye**

**Mr. Benson – aye**

**Mr. Charter – aye**

**Mr. Martin – aye**

**The Board voted 5-0, the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.**

**Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting**

- Agenda, January 4, 2021
- Amendment to Existing Traffic Rules and Orders for Stop Signs, Yield Signs, and Through Ways for Liberty Street Northbound at Stow Street, Martin Street Both Approaches at Stow Street, Stow Street Eastbound at Liberty Street, and Stow Street Westbound at Martin Street
- Email from Josh Sunderberg of Acton Bowldadrome Requesting a 50% Reduction in Automated Amusement Devices Dated October 17, 2020
- Letter from Na'aseh of Congregational Beth Elohim Dated December 27, 2020
- Meeting Minutes from December 14, 18 and 21, 2020
- Committee Recommendation, Joe Hebert, Full Member of the Agricultural Commission
- Committee Recommendation, Everett Kenerson, Associate Member, Land Stewardship Committee