

RECEIVED & FILED
DATE May 4, 1994
Catherine Belbin
TOWN CLERK, ACTON

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
APRIL 4, 1994

The Board of Selectmen held a pre-Town Meeting meeting in the Guidance Library at the Sr. High at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, April 4, 1994. Present were F. Dore' Hunter, Anne Fanton, William Mullin, Nancy Tavernier, Norman Lake, Town Manager Johnson, and Assistant Town Manager Murray. Guest: Anne Forbes

CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE

PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS

None scheduled due to Town Meeting

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

ANNE FANTON moved to approve West Acton Village Plan as addendum to the Acton Master Plan. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 4-0 Unanimous vote.

Historic District Article Wording - ANNE FANTON - Moved to recommend to HDC that they take no action. NORM LAKE - Second. They felt that this is last minute decision and would recommend to HDC to take no action. Could have trouble on the floor, could get into more trouble with changes than it is worth. Nancy doesn't think conflict is good reason not to present. Norm is opposed to the article without limit on parking lot. Dore' agrees with Anne, the Board is still debating and should be of one mind when it is presented to the Annual Town Meeting. Anne Forbes is still reacting to Church's letter (Only saw it two hours ago) If Board of Selectmen votes HDC wording she will Move the article, if not, she would not want to move it.

Bill Mullin asked if there were any middle ground? Anne Fanton doesn't think so... but church wants to think about it.

Nancy wants to know if part of the changes could go forward. Dore' doesn't think so, would be difficult motion and muddy the water. Bill felt that "take no action" places us in better position later because we tried to work with them.

Norm was concerned with the impact on a single parking space in a driveway in front of a house.

The Board then discussed several items as listed below:

-To continue to present the Motion under Article 25 "Capital Improvements - Engineering studies" as a bonding motion, in spite of the FinCom's preference for appropriation.

-To present the motion for Minuteman Regional Votech budget based on 3.04% MGF.

-To move \$77K as amount into Municipal Stabilization Fund.

-To move "take no action" on HDC Article.

Staff advised the Board that there was no new information regarding Teacher's Early Retirement incentive since the weekend packet. A conference call has been scheduled for Tuesday with the School staff and Teacher's Retirement Board.

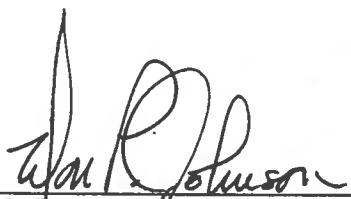
CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items for Consent Calendar

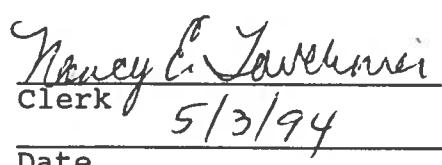
TOWN MANAGER'S CONCERNs

None

The Board adjourned into Town Meeting at 7:30 P.M.



DON P. JOHNSON
Recording Secty, Pro Temp.



Nancy L. Jaworski
Clerk 5/3/94

Date

HDC : This letter went to the church
today -

April 4, 1994

Mr. Gil Carley
Moderator
Acton Congregational Church
12 Concord Road
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Gil,

Your letter of March 31 revives the parking lot issue of several months ago, and urges members to raise their voices, or at least hands, at the forthcoming Town Meeting.

Barbara & I were baffled at the previous episode. The church seemed charmingly innocent of the burdens imposed by community zoning controls. We had been close observers of development & zoning affairs in Back Bay & Beacon Hill for many years. One precept from that experience applies here: the petitioner rarely has standing to revise the zoning code. The state enabling legislation seems to indicate the HDC's right to review parking lots and septic systems.

The wiser policy is to apprehend the intent of the code, (as well as the concerns of the neighborhood) and to attempt to comply with them. It is hard to have sympathy with protests over the approval process (application, drawings, public hearing); later on, those who have passed the barriers often enjoy the security of knowing the obstacles are a bit higher for the next petitioner. Zoning controls are, of course, protection against disorder.

This church may be enthusiastic about parking now, but it is not likely anyone wants the drive-in ministries which are seen in California & Arizona: church-goers drive up to a post with a speaker, and never leave their cars. I would expect church members to endorse the proposition that parking lots are unattractive, and should be out of view--and as small as possible. It is the mission of the Historic District Commission to include the impact of parking lots in their deliberations. It should be possible for the church to fulfill its mission without acquiring the flexibility of parking cars as it alone may desire.

This may be a moment for members to apply church teachings to themselves: "Render unto Caesar...etc." We urge members to sit out Warrant Article No. 60. Very likely, the HDC will continue to exercise its limited powers in a responsible manner.

Very truly yours,

Hal & Barbara Smith, Church Members

Hal & Barbara Smith
159 Central Street
Acton, Ma 01720