

Volunteer Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 04, 2024

7:00PM

Via Zoom Conference Call <https://zoom.us/j/87454124171>

Present: Gregory Hutchins, Hart Millett and Fang Yang

Absent: None

Virtual Meeting Coordinator: Fang Yang

1. Opening

Chair Hutchins opened the meeting at 7:07PM

2. Regular Business

A. Public Comments/citizens concerns

Patrick Hearn has been volunteering with Middlesex Conservation for 4 years. He helped start the Agricultural Commission and has been a member for 3 years. He gave some suggestions for recruiting of volunteers. Highlight of his points:

- Volunteers should have some basic communication skills, such as email, Word, Powerpoint, etc.
- Committees should write volunteer job descriptions for their recruiting.
- Newer communication channels should be used for younger residents.
- Recruiting should bring more 16-17 years old high school students who are able to vote in Acton.
- Mr. Hearn agreed to the Chair's request to email us the brief presentation he had prepared.

Tris W attended the meeting as a spectator. She has about 18 years experience on town boards in Sudbury. She is an Acton resident now. She was a commercial architect and professional designer. She has also got some background with land use and using lead certification for protecting land. However, after introducing herself, the Meeting Coordinator accidentally cut her off from the zoom meeting instead restoring her status to attendee.

- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes** – The meeting minutes from the VCC's meeting on February 15, 2024 were reviewed. Mr. Hutchins moved to approve the meeting minutes and Mr. Millett seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll:
Mr. Hutchins – aye; Mr. Millett – aye; and Mr. Yang – aye.

- C. Next Meeting** – TBD.

3. New/Special Business

Discussion on Application by David Boccuti for Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)

- Mr. Boccuti was asked by Joe Robb and Alissa Nicol if he would be willing to join as a member. He said sure. He has been attending the meetings since September. He found them very interesting. He is applying to be an associate member to start.

- Mr. Boccuti was a mechanical engineer for 40 years. He is a license professional engineer in MA. He is interested in water matters, but does not have professional experience in water systems.
- Mr. Boccuti is very proficient in Microsoft Office. He has his own website and manages it himself. He uses Whatsapp to communicate when he travels.
- Mr. Boccuti keeps up with the town affairs through notifications from the Town's website and it's subgroups, and from Acton Exchange and Acton Forum.
- Mr. Boccuti reported no conflict of interest.
- Mr. Boccuti reported that he would be able to attend future meetings regularly.

Mr. Millett moved to forward David Boccuti's name to the Select Board for further consideration to appoint as an associate member of the WRAC. Mr. Yang seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll: Mr. Yang – aye; Mr. Millett – aye; and Mr. Hutchins – aye.

Discussion on Application by Nadia Byrnes for Dog Park Committee (DPC)

- Ms. Byrnes has a dog, Dexter, a little over a year old. He is the "Heinz 57" American mix. He is about 45 pounds.
- Ms. Byrnes lives on the other side of the woods from Great Hill Reservation (6 Piper Road). She has been going there since she moved in Acton 2 and a half years ago. She met Karen (Martin) in the park. Karen told her about the DPC and the dog park in the works. She has joined a couple of meetings and talked to the group there. She thinks that this is the area that she is very passionate about.
- Ms. Byrnes has lived in many different places and experienced many different dog parks. She is very knowledgeable about how they are set up, not just physical set up, but also how the support for the dog park and the ongoing maintenance of the dog park is set up.
- Ms. Byrne worked a good amount in the communication team for her previous employer, and thinking about involvement and engagement with the community. She thinks that she has a perspective of being on the corporate side about what's important to a corporate donor, when we think about why they should put their name on something, or support something in an ongoing manner. She also thinks that she is a fairly creative person, trying to think how the DPC might engage with the community, get community support, make the community space fun and engaging.
- Ms. Byrnes has background in chemistry and food science. Through those fields she found the field of sensory science which is essentially understanding the human sensory system and thinking about how we use it, not just to sense the world around us, but specifically to experience food beverage, personal care products.
- Ms. Byrnes wants to join the DPC to become more engaged in Acton Town affairs.
- Ms. Byrnes reported no conflict of interest.
- Ms. Byrnes reported that she would be able to attend future meetings regularly.

Mr. Yang moved to forward Nadia Byrnes' name to the Select Board for further consideration to appoint as a member of the DPC. Mr. Millett seconded. Chair Hutchins called roll: Mr. Millett – aye; Mr. Yang – aye; and Mr. Hutchins – aye.

4. Adjournment

At 8:15PM

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Chair Hutchins called roll:
Mr. Millett – aye; Mr. Yang – aye; and Mr. Hutchins – aye.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of February 15, 2024.
- Volunteer Application by David Boccuti.
- Volunteer Application by Nadia Byrnes.