



ACTON PLANNING BOARD

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Minutes of Meeting
January 19, 2010

Acton Town Hall, Faulkner Room (204)

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Planning Board members Mr. Ryan Bettez (Chairman), Mr. Jeff Clymer (Vice), Ray Yacouby (Clerk), Mr. Roland Bourdon, Margaret Woolley Busse, associate members Kim Montella and Derrick Chin attended. Also present was Planning Director, Mr. Roland Bartl and Planning Board Secretary, Kim DelNigro. Absent were Mr. Greg Niemyski and Ms. Leigh Davis-Honn.

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.

I. Citizens Concerns

None raised.

II. Consent Agenda

Consent Item A. Minutes of 12/15/09, Consent Item B. Final Release of Bond - Centennial Lane and Consent Item C. Micmac Lane – Modification, Mr. Yacouby moved to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Clymer 2nd, all in favor.

III. Reports

CPC: Mr. Bourdon reported the committee has reviewed 11 CPA application projects. All presentations have been seen and the next meeting will be deliberating.

MAGIC: Mr. Bettez stated the next meeting will be next Wednesday. He stated MAPC is having an Open House in their new offices.

DRB: Mrs. Montella reported the committee has reviewed the plans of Sachem Way. The committee has given their comments and outlined their concerns to the developer.

Mr. Bartl stated a developer in town is making renovations to a building. The developer is worried that the DRB will make additional changes to the garage doors. Mr. Bartl suggested that the chosen garage doors are appropriate for the building and the site.

IV. LID Stormwater Techniques for Development (WRAC) – Carol Holley

Mrs. Carol Holley, WRAC, explained their focus on protecting Acton's water resources. Mrs. Holley introduced Mrs. Allison Field-Juma, Acting Executive Director and Policy Director with Organization of the Assabet River (OAR). Mrs. Juma explained OAR is to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural and recreational features of the Assabet River. Mr. Bob Hartzel, Sr. Water Resources Scientist with GeoSyntec Corporation gave a presentation of the project. Mr. Hartzel reported the project is being funded through OAR and discussed the process and effort involved. He explained the project is to provide a planning aid to the 5 Nashoba Brook sub-watershed towns (Acton, Carlisle, Concord, Littleton, Westford) in promoting Low Impact Development (LID) methods as part of master planning, project permitting and development of bylaws. The project develops a model to evaluate the suitability and priority of developable parcels in the Nashoba Brook subwatershed for LID stormwater techniques and estimates the benefits and costs of LID stormwater management compared to conventional stormwater management.

Board members had concerns and questions regarding:

- Need to take into account septic systems and how would it work with septic systems?

- There may a higher rate of sediment accumulation in the bio-retention basins.
- What is the cost? Mr. Hartzel stated it is getting finalized.
- Worried that a homeowner will not like or maintain the bio-retention basin.
- Deed restrictions and easements to protect bio-retention basins may be needed.

Ms. Mary Michelman, WRAC, raised concerns: Much of the LID design methods are intended to protect and improve the surface water quality. There is a need to also consider the impacts and benefits on groundwater and groundwater quality. Need to be careful of pervious paving - higher comfort level for its use at pedestrian areas than in commercial areas or streets: pay attention to Zone 2 groundwater protection areas; make sure it is installed correctly and it is maintained.

Mr. Bartl stated that LID appears to become the way of managing stormwater in the future. Maintenance of systems and installations will need to be placed under the homeowner's responsibility; need to filter out toxins that can contaminate groundwater; keep track of records of the homeowner's maintenance; bio-retention basins need to be planted with suitable materials ; need for it to be fully explained to developers.

Board members thanked Mr. Hartzel for his time and effort on his presentation.

V. Possible PB Training Classes - Dates

Mrs. Margaret Woolley Busse stated she has been in contact with Citizens Planner Training Collaborative under U Mass Amherst Outreach regarding planning board trainings and seminars. She stated they can have a trainer come out and train a group (of up to 25 people) for about \$500. We could pick whatever two topics we liked. It would a 2 part session, roughly for 2.5 hours. The Board agreed on March 2 and 23 or March 2 and 30 at 7:30pm. Mrs. Busse stated she will check with the UMass presenter on their availability.

Motion was made to close the meeting, 2nd; all in favor; meeting adjourned at about 9:50 PM.