



**Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes**
October 25, 2010
6:00 PM
Room 115 AB High School

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk and with a quorum of members present, the Acton Finance Committee convened at 6:00 p.m. on October 25, 2010 to review various matters. This meeting was held in advance of and in conjunction with the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7PM this evening.

Members present for the meeting: Mary Ann Ashton, Chair, Bill Mullin, Vice Chair, Doug Tindal, Clerk, Bob Evans, Steve Noone, Kent Sharp, Pat Clifford, Clint Seward, and Brandy Brandon, Members.

Chairman Ashton called the session order at 6:05pm.

- I. Chairman Ashton gave the committee a briefing as to the items to be covered during tonight's meeting.
- II. There was no public participation.
- III. The committee reviewed items relating to the upcoming STM.
 - A. The committee discussed some of the on-going activities with respect to the purchase of the Caouette land.
 - B. Chairman Ashton went over some of the details related to anticipated cost overruns. Ohese included environmental cleanup costs at a maximum of \$200,000, \$34,000 for environmental engineering, and \$22,000 to pay for extensions of the purchase deadline. Chairman Ashton asked the committee to vote an approval for all these items constituting \$256,000. This resolution passed by a vote of 8 to 1.
 - C. A discussion was held concerning the agricultural nature of the land. It was pointed out that the agricultural portions of the land being purchased had not been subjected to the same level of environmental testing which had applied to the formerly industrial area which had been detected in the phase 1 environmental examination. The concern was expressed that farmland should not be supposed to be free of chemical contamination; given that fertilizers and weed killers may have been applied to this property for decades as part of the farming operations.
 - D. Chairman Ashton announced that the Steinberg – Lalli foundation had offered \$100,000 to the Town to assist in closing the gap on funding the portions of the purchase which would have come out of General Revenues. She also announced that the conservation trust had offered a contribution of \$10,000 for the same purpose.

- E. The committee discussed a non-binding resolution to be made from the floor regarding the town's commitment to keeping the land free of contamination and to take whatever steps which might be needed to protect the environment.
 - F. Brandy Brandon made a brief presentation regarding what the costs to the town would be if the property were to be developed under the 40 B process.
- IV. Committee Reports. No committee reports were made.
- V. At 6:42 the committee removed to the high school auditorium for the commencement of the town meeting.
- VI. At the conclusion of the town meeting at approximately 9:15 a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the finance committee meeting.
- VII. The next meeting of the committee will be on November 25.