

From: [Margaret Woolley Busse](mailto:Margaret.Woolley.Busse)
To: [Kristin Alexander](mailto:Kristin.Alexander)
Subject: FW: Acton 2020 - questions to BOS
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:24:59 PM

From Janet Adachi

From: Janet K Adachi [mailto:jkajeg@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 11:26 AM
To: bussehome@comcast.net
Subject: Acton 2020 - questions to BOS

Hi, Margaret,

Here are my responses to the questions you posed during your 17 January presentation to the Selectmen. When the questions state "you" or "your," I assume those call for my responses on my own behalf as one Selectman, as opposed to on behalf of the entire BOS. Thanks.

Janet

Janet K. Adachi
Acton Board of Selectmen
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○ **What are you working on? What are your main projects?**

Most of my work thus far has been in my capacity as liaison to other Town boards, perhaps because I'm still in my first year on the BOS. Among my few truly individual projects as a Selectman are

- *Site plans/special permit applications, which all Selectmen are assigned on a rotating basis*
- *Acton Selectmen's manual, previously drafted by the Assistant Town Manager and which I offered to edit when time permits.*

As Selectmen liaison, I oversee and am involved to varying degrees in the efforts of other Town boards: ACHC, CPC (I am the BOS rep/member, formerly was the ConComm rep), ConComm (former member), GAB, Land Stewards, WANT, WRAC, ZBA. Also liaison to the two rail-trail projects and was serving somewhat informally as the liaison on W.R. Grace site cleanup issues until the death of Mary Michelman, ACES, in December.

○ **What are your 3 (doesn't have to be precisely 3) main goals?**

- *develop comprehensive policy/plan for wastewater management (septic and sewer); develop comprehensive sewerage plan/policy that is consistent with the goals of the new master plan under development*
- *develop a more coordinated multi-departmental review process for all development and redevelopment projects, including with respect to stormwater management*

under the new EPA permit under the Clean Water Act that applies to Acton and other area towns.

○ **What do you see as challenges and opportunities coming up in the future?**

- *continuing to provide a reasonably high quality of services to residents in the face of dwindling and/or unpredictable state aid and revenues*
- *easing dependence on the residential tax base by increasing the commercial tax base (judiciously)*
- *collaborating across town boundaries to manage the cost of providing services to town residents without compromising the quality*

○ **What long-range plans are you working on or contemplating working on?**

Longer term goals:

- *motivate residents to adopt more environmentally friendly habits: get pay-as-you-throw adopted; develop incentives for private well-owners to be responsible about the use of private wells for irrigation; have them understand that wetlands serve an important function and are not simply mosquito-breeding bogs or good places to dump yard waste*
- *encourage rational,, fact-based dialogue about affordable housing in order to correct misperceptions about what it is, who qualifies for it and why a Town like Acton should support it, for reasons other than being able to turn down Chapter 40B applications*

○ **What are the 3 (doesn't have to be precisely 3) things that you would like Acton citizens to know about the town (this should be in the context of what the specific committee works on)**

- *how the budget-process works, and specifically, how the budget and tax rate are the result of the services that residents want; the budget split, 1/3-2/3, municipality-schools*
- *the value to the Town and its residents of the many volunteer Town boards, which provide significant services that otherwise paid employees would have to perform*
- *the impact of their individual and collective behavior on the environment and essential resources such as water*

○ **Do you have any long-range planning documents you can give us for input? If not, would you be willing to draw some up? [This question may be more relevant for some committees than others.]**

- *No documents to share at present.*