

Katie Green

The **Recreation Commission** met last Tuesday and reviewed the results from their NARA Master Plan survey. The Commissioners will review the results and comments from the survey and provide feedback to use when developing the Master Plan. The Commission also discussed exploring options for ways to use donated modular homes at NARA. The **Acton Nursing Services Task Force** met and recapped their presentation to the BOS. They also discussed their on going projects and what their focus should be between now and April Town Meeting. The **Historical Commission** met on Wednesday and heard from a representative of a buyer interested in the property at 248 High Street. At their last meeting, the Commission denied a request to demolish the house. The buyer is interested in restoring the property but had questions about splitting the lot. The Historical Commission indicated that this was a zoning issue and not under their purview. The Commission also approved a historic plaque application and they discussed ideas for updating their bylaw (Chapter N).

Janet K. Adachi

Acton Water District (Commissioners' meetings frequently at same time as Selectmen's meetings):

- Monday, 9/28 – Agenda included introduction of William Stanford for consideration as District Clerk (replacing Chip Orcutt).
- Monday, 10/19 (tonight) – Agenda unavailable as of this 10/15 report.

Acton Community Housing Corporation, Monday, 10/19 (tonight) - Agenda includes presentation of proposed Chapter 40B development at 111-113 School Street in Historic District that is bypassing the "friendly" approach under the state housing department's Local Initiative Program; developer previously did LIP 40B project under on River Street side of property, proposing 4 duplexes for purchase, with 2 of 8 units to be affordable.

Conservation Commission, Wednesday, 10/7 – Postponement at applicant's request of continued hearing on 176 Central Street (abutting Mt. Hope Cemetery); approval of Town proposal for long-awaited well at Arboretum: approval of proposed delineation of wetlands on Mohegan Road parcel that generated questions from several abutting property owners.

Design Review Board, Wednesday, 10/7 – Ms. Adachi unable to attend due to ConComm meeting at same time. Agenda included presentation about proposed restaurant with outdoor seating, 110 Grill, at former McDonald's site in Kelley's Corner.

Finance Committee, Wednesday, 10/14 – Presentations about two Special Town Meeting warrant articles: by Jeff Clymer for Water Resources Advisory Committee regarding proposed stormwater management bylaw; by proponent and School Committee chairman about citizens' petition regarding PARRC/Common Core; agenda also included discussion of proposed annual point-of-view document.

Minuteman Regional Vocational School District, Friday, 10/2 (*update of 10/5 Selectmen's report*) - 3d of 3 informational sessions at school for member-town representatives. Ms. Green, Mr. Berry, Ms. Adachi present. Essentially same presentation, same materials as at Superintendent Bourquillon's presentation at Selectmen's 10/5 meeting; 10/2 attendee comments reflected divergent perspectives and concerns of member communities.

Regionalization Finance Oversight Subcommittee, Tuesday, 10/6 – First meeting of FY16. Discussion of 10/1 memorandum from Finance Director about anticipated delay in the submission of FY15 year-end report required under regionalization agreement; subcommittee members said member towns should have access to draft data early enough for use in FY17 budget discussions; recommended modifications/clarifications in presentation of data, including about calculation of per-pupil cost.

Water Resources Advisory Committee, Wednesday, 10/14 – Discussion of 10/14 presentation by Jeff Clymer to FinComm, resulting questions/comments; discussion of website information, possible video segment and other preparation for Special Town Meeting.

Rep. Atkins District meeting, Friday, 10/2 (*update of 10/5 Selectman's report*) - Rep. Atkins will be setting up meeting of district representatives w/Chairman of Elder Affairs before Christmas, probably in Concord, for discussion of elderly safety and vast array of services available; discussion of Minuteman Regional District issues; state recycling grants: 4450 to Acton, 4850 to Concord, ~1500 to Chelmsford; Gov. Baker during campaign promised to release Ch. 90 funds held back to increase total to 300M but proposed capital budget for FY17 reduces funding to 200M; towns in limbo about PARCC because Department of Education has not made decision yet; teachers' unions say new teacher-evaluation requirement need to be part of collective bargaining because changes way evaluations are done; discussion of need to encourage local volunteerism, which is common challenge in area towns; Rep. Atkins mentioned opioids epidemic and role that Carlisle mother played role in decision by public safety departments to carry Narcan.

Franny Osman

Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA)- 9-24-15

The LRTA Board voted unanimously to allow Acton to use \$65,000 of its MBTA Cherry Sheet assessment money for the new fixed route bus. We talked a little about sizes of vehicles, as Maynard's new Council on Aging vehicle is a little smaller than usual and Carlisle recently got an MV-1 which is a 5 person van that takes wheelchairs.

Senior Center Study Committee- 9-30-15

At our first meeting after the Board of Selectmen voted 4-1 to keep the charge the way it has been--solely a senior center but with potential for community use of the building at other times, details as yet to be worked out--we were ready to move forward. Dean Charter became chair and Peter Ashton will remain vice-chair. We had considered an executive board as rotating chair, but then Dean agreed to run.

We voted to enlist the architect to look at the Arlington St. site further and to plan on coming to Town Meeting in April for approximately \$175,000 in design funds. Meanwhile, we discussed the pros and cons of going in two steps (design, then capital at a subsequent meeting, or all at once). We planned ways to reach out to residents who had community center ideas and how to bring diverse populations such as younger adults on board with the effort.

Open Space Committee- 10-2-15

Progress on various lands including 176 Central St. which has drawn the attention of a developer for two houses, the Cemetery Commission, the Conservation Commission, and a neighborhood group. Acton Conservation Trust led a tour of the Gaebel land that was purchased a few years ago and conversations are underway regarding another property whose back land is contiguous to Great Hill Conservation land, the Magoon parcel, 4 Piper Lane.

The **Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)** subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's working group on Climate Change Resilience held its first meeting on **October 6** at Acton Town Hall. Most of the 13 MAGIC towns were represented. I attended this first one as did our three local representatives. The public forum will be Nov. 3, more details to follow.

Council on Aging Board 10-13-15

The Board discussed the Senior Center Study Committee's progress, including the recent Board of Selectmen meeting where the charge of the Senior Center Study Committee was renewed.

One member, Bonnie Lobel, completely analyzed and outlined the website, the missions, and the goals. The Board discussed the mission, decided the COA Board's mission should be the same as the COA's mission: "The mission of the Council on Aging is to advocate for Acton seniors by enhancing their quality of life and independence through programs and services designed to address their health and economic concerns as well as social and cultural interests." Then a series of new functions were re-defined as "goals" and other goals added to the list.

The Friends of the Council on Aging has its fair coming up. Please come to support the Senior Center. Here is the information:

Saturday, November 14, Holiday Fair at Acton
COA Senior Center

Discover a hidden gem, free admission, open to all ages, and bargains galore at our annual Holiday Fair being held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14 at the ACTON C.O.A.SENIOR CENTER at 50 Audubon Drive, off High Street in South Acton.

The Holiday Fair is coordinated by the Friends of the Acton Council on Aging. All funds raised will support senior programs and activities offered at our Acton Senior Center.

Varying hand-made articles created and donated by Acton seniors will be on sale.

Items include: knitted and crocheted scarves, hats and mittens, etc., plus

hand-painted items, cookbooks and blue bird house kits. Our raffle table will hold 14 lovely gift baskets. Our Boutique Shop, a smashing hit last year, will offer many elegant surprises.

Our home-baked goods are always a quick sell so come early. Light made-to-order refreshments will be available in Joy's kitchen from 8:30 to 1:30 p.m. It is a great place to hang out and visit with friends.

Special Addition,
Santa Claus

will visit us from 11 to 12. Bring your children and your cameras for a Photo opportunity with Santa.

Questions? Call Norma Wu, [978-263-8118](tel:978-263-8118)

The Commission on Disabilities meets this coming Tuesday the 20th of Oct. Members of the Commission met with local Clergy last week to hear about relevant issues. I will report on that when I hear more about that meeting. I know that weekend transportation issues came up.

October 14 I attended a **US Department of Transportation “Beyond Traffic”** event at Boston University, covering our whole mega region which extends down to Maryland. There is a trend of more wealthy people moving into the cities and people who are less wealthy being priced out of the cities and moving to suburbs, more than in the past, as well as workplaces for all moving into the suburbs. These trends pose transportation challenges, which we are well aware of.