

Chingsung Chang

EDC met and is close to finishing revising its mission and objectives, as well as examining a new composition for the committee. Various projects like AES, as well as the McDonald's site have been discussed

BoA met and is generally in a lull.

HDC met and has been continuing its work of examining modifications to various buildings in the historic district.

## Katie Green

The Acton nursing Services Task Force met on November 17th and reviewed the first postcard promoting the ANS which was recently mailed to all Acton households with someone over the age of 60. They are planning to send 3 additional postcards starting in January 2016. They also discussed plans for future marketing tasks they can take on in the new year.

I missed a meeting of the Acton Memorial Library Board of Trustees as they met on the same night as the Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee. The ABRSC heard a presentation from the consultants who completed the first phase of the district's existing conditions study. They looked at the district's space needs, technology infrastructure, and the individual needs of each of the district's 9 buildings. The study is available on the school committee's website and I encourage everyone to check it out. The committee also had an initial discussion of raising fees for both the athletics program and kindergarden. They also had presentations on entering a net metering agreement and on their first quarter financials. The committee also further discussed the superintendent's proposal to restructure some administrative positions and change some roles from Director to Assistant Superintendent. The committee also met on December 3rd but I was unable to attend that meeting.

The Historical Commission planned to meet on November 23rd but, due to a posting issue, was unable to meet.

The Recreation Commission met on December 1st. They discussed plans for the second year of the Holiday Jingle House Contest. Check out the Recreation website for information on how to enter this fun contest! The Rec Department is also continuing to work on the NARA Master Plan and expect to have a draft sometime in January. The Commission also discussed the five CPA applications that Recreation submitted this year.

Janet K. Adachi

Acton Water District, Monday, 11/23 – Discussion of AWD access easement at Post Office Square and possible parking of Acton-Boxborough school buses as result of recent Special Town Meeting approval of property tax incentive for Associated Environmental Systems of Ayer. District Director Chris Allen has spoken with Richard Ellert of AES and Town Manager about AWD's help with proposed paving of easement; Commissioners agreed that no need for AWD to do anything further to maintain/improve easement, will send letter so stating; Mr. Allen also will communicate with Acton Boxborough Regional District Facilities Manager J.D. Head about bus-parking issue. 12/7 agenda will include Concord application for Knox Trail hookup to AWD water supply.

Conservation Commission, Saturday, 11/28 – Site walks re projects that ConComm was to hear at 12/2 meeting: Ice House Pond proposed parking lot and trail improvements; Town of Concord proposed expansion of Nagog Pond water-treatment facility.

Finance Committee, Tuesday, 11/24

- FY16, Q1 (and FY15) updates by Assistant Finance Director/Town Assessor Brian McMullen and Acton Boxborough Regional District Finance Director Clare Jeannotte and Superintendent Glenn Brand.

- Approval of proposed FY17 Point-of-View document, with some changes.

Recommendations: implement structurally balanced budgets, limiting tax increases to 2.5%, spending increases to 3%, with no use of reserves; fund Other Post-Employment Benefits at planned \$1.4M; replenish stabilization fund; maintain reserves of 5% of spending; form Capital Planning Committee.

- Discussion of 11/10 Special Town Meeting: general concern that crucial information unavailable until last minute, warrant insufficiently informative, STM is distraction from preparation for Annual Town Meeting; at same time, recognition that municipal government has become more complicated and issues sometimes arise than cannot wait until spring Town Meeting; suggestion that Town Meeting institution undergo review by not simply League of Women Voters but group of residents who have extensive experience in Town government via elective office, etc.

- Discussion of possible role for FinComm in collective bargaining process, given that human resources constitutes majority of budget for Town.

Minuteman Regional Vocational School District

- Monday, 11/16 - Breakfast meeting for member-town representatives (only a few member-towns not present) with presentation about bonding-approval process: once School Committee votes to recommend financing phase, member-town would have 60 days to call Special Town Meeting to express disapproval, with District-wide ballot vote, requiring only majority vote, to follow if any member STM disapproved. Member-town approval of financing could be made contingent on MA School Building approval of building project. Audience comments included report that representatives of 6 towns

that did not approve 2014 proposal for amended agreement had met to discuss possible resolutions of their respective concerns. Divergent opinions from member-representatives about District-wide ballot and whether building project and regional agreement must move forward separately, with emphasis on building project, or members need to reach consensus on changes to regional agreement before vote on building project.

- Wednesday, 12/2 – Meeting of member-Town Selectmen-representatives (only Lancaster absent). Superintendent Ed Bourquillon, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Mahoney, School Committee Chairman Jeff Stulin also present. With reference to 2014 amended agreement, approved by 10 of 16 members, agreement in principle to additional amendments that would address concerns of remaining 6 members:

- 1) start with 2014 proposed amended agreement;
- 2) modify "Withdrawal" provision to include "Boxborough protocol," listing members whose Boards of Selectmen have indicated by a specified deadline that the members wish to withdraw from District, with withdrawal to be effective following unanimous approval by District approval by MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education agreement (State Senator Jamie Eldridge told Boxborough Selectman Vince Amoroso he was prepared to assist with communications with DESE);
- 3) in recognition of Lincoln's status as host community for proposed new building, District annual payment to Lincoln of ~140K beginning in FY18 (discussion of proposed payment to Lincoln consumed much of meeting time; current host Lexington has not sought, is not seeking such compensation although Lexington likely to continue providing public safety services even to new building);
- 4) no admission of non-member students from towns refusing to pay fair capital contribution, except by unanimous (or maybe 2/3) approval of School Committee (some concerns that this might not be permissible, that DESE has sole authority over capital contribution of non-member town).

Members would have to vote on proposed amended agreement by February 2016 to avoid disrupting timeline for building financing approval. Superintendent said DESE aware of ongoing efforts of members to reach consensus on regional agreement. Sub-group of member-town Selectmen to work with Minuteman administration on communications with DESE; finalizing draft of proposed additional changes, including legal review, communications with School Committee; communicating with member-town Boards of Selectmen about intentions to withdraw/remain and proposed changes.

- Thursday, 12/3 – Acton Minuteman Working Group meeting. Discussion of member-Town Selectmen 12/2 meeting about proposed regional agreement amendments, upcoming Minuteman School Committee vote on building project bonding (unclear what impact 12/2 Selectmen's agreement in principle might have) and potential use of local newspapers to inform residents about Minuteman-related issues.

495/Metrowest Partnership, Tuesday, 12/15 –Annual conference, The International, Bolton, with Lt. Governor to be keynote speaker; registration on Partnership website at 495partnership.org.

MAPC/MAGIC forum on Climate Resilience, Thursday, 11/19 – Ms. Osman, Ms. Adachi attended. See Ms. Osman's Selectmen's report.

Green Acton, Wednesday, 11/18 – Update by Matt Mostoller, Acton Water District Environmental Manager, about Nuclear Metals site as probable source of 1,4 dioxane that could be migrating under Assabet River to AWD's Assabet wells; is subject to inconsistent cleanup standards; and is ubiquitous, as stabilizer and common ingredient in consumer products, and as non-volatile substance also more difficult to remove from water.

Franny Osman

### **North South Rail Link meeting- November 16, 2015**

The working group continues to expand the base of supporters of this project, in particular amongst the Mass. United States congressional delegation. I have arranged for Mike Dukakis and architect Brad Bellows to come out to Acton on either April 12 or 13, 2016, to educate people from our area about the North South Rail Link. Jamie Eldridge, also on this working group, and the Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), will help make this presentation happen.

### **Senior Center Study Committee (SCSC)- November 16, 2015**

The committee saw some design ideas for the proposed senior center. Noting some disagreement about space needs, such as how much exercise space is required, I discussed this issue afterward with Dean Charter, the chair, and will also talk to the Council on Aging Board as advised by Dean. The SCSC will present to the public at a forum on January 13, snow date January 27.

### **MassCommute and Transportation for America (and other hosting organizations) Policy Breakfast at Patriot Place, Foxborough: How Top Employers are Getting People to Work- November 19, 2014 –**

The information here was very relevant re: the effort to get people to and from work in our area and re: Acton outgoing commuter needs. CrossTown Connect was one of the presenters. Other presenters included someone very enthusiastic about shuttles, from the company E-Ink, who I think would be a good presenter for the Economic Development Committee sometime, as well as the shuttle director (onscreen participating) from Google in California and someone from Lyft, among others. Rail and Transit director Astrid Glynn also spoke. I found conversations with the Lyft rep interesting, afterward, regarding possible coordination of discounted trips that can be arranged where a certain origin or destination helps defray the cost of the ride.

### **MAGIC Climate Change Adaptation Forum- November 19, 2014**

I am glad to know that Robert Hummel from Planning will represent Acton on this one year working group (three more meetings) as it is very helpful to have staff attending. Thank you to Steve Ledoux and Roland Bartl for sending him our way. This forum was very well attended, filling Room 204 with people from towns throughout the MAGIC planning region. Janet Adachi attended, as did a few other Acton residents including but not limited to Debra Simes (also on the working group), Bill Romer (also on the working group), Fran Portante, Jim Snyder-Grant, and a recent newcomer to town, Dana Snyder (no relation to the former!).

We broke up into sections, geographically, for discussion, after a great presentation by MAPC staff. For more information on this project, contact Tanya Paglia at MAPC , [tpaglia@mapc.org](mailto:tpaglia@mapc.org) .

### **Acton-Boxborough United Way- December 3, 2015**

About forty or fifty reps from Towns (including Sharon Mercurio and Laura Ducharme) and local agencies exchanged information about how to better let residents know where they can find help. It is amazing to see how many people and organizations are wanting to help people in hard times, and how much red tape there is in getting people that help. The Social Services coordinator from Boxborough spoke of the overwhelming paperwork and months-long delays in getting approval for services for one resident with a head injury. Later that day I heard that Officials at the FBI said they processed 185,345 firearms background checks, two checks per second, on Black Friday.

### **Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) meeting December 3, 2015**

Lowell just won a large Tiger grant to repair many bridges. There was a review of Paratransit services. Congress just passed a multi-year spending bill, the first time in a long time that more than one year was funded in a row. The bill means approximately level funding for the LRTA. There are some large capital projects in the design phase, including an improved terminal and walkway to the terminal. We heard a presentation from the company that will put AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator) technology into place in all LRTA buses and stations.

### **Open Space Committee December 4, 2015**

We heard reports on the Community Preservation Committee presentation that Andy Magee gave, asking for \$450k for Open Space set-aside (on top of the 1.9M in the account now) plus a small amount (< \$20k) for expenses such as appraisals. Land prices have risen and there are about three upcoming potential purchases, so it makes sense to have a large amount in the set-aside.

We heard about the ongoing efforts by neighbors to look into the Magoon/Hadley parcel, and the complications posed by the value of the land being much more if you are the developer on the next property, with access to School St.

176 Central St. property, abutting Mt. Hope Cemetery, was just appraised, is about to come before Conservation Commission, and is still in active discussion.

Andersen parcel: This is the part of Anderson parcel that Anderson kept to develop part of as a cluster development of 8 houses. The 8 house development's open space adds on to the other Anderson land the Town bought. Parking will be on Arlington St.

Stonefield Farm- Appraisal in progress, possibly the Town could buy an agricultural restriction rather than buy the property outright.

River St.- Lazarro would like to sell his beautiful riverfront property that has interest for historical reasons, open space, and for affordable housing.

Iron Work Farm- This nonprofit organization owns six acres across from Erickson's Grain, where Faulkner house is, as well as Jones Tavern which has very little land. They rent housing at very low price in both buildings. They would like to find a way to preserve the buildings by selling a conservation restriction to the town. They would build (with the state Historical Commission's go-ahead) a historically-accurate addition (where the stable was) to the High St. Faulkner House. They need improvements such as a turnaround for visiting school buses. Susan Mitchell-Hardt and Walter Foster from Community Preservation Committee are working on this.

There was an executive session to discuss land purchases.