

Katie Green

I attended the **Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee** meeting on February 4th. They had a presentation from their consultants on Phase I of their Capital Study Report. This phase was an existing conditions study. The consultants reviewed all of the buildings in the district and came up with a list of capital needs for each and then prioritized those needs and provided cost estimates. The biggest needs are at the Douglas, Gates, and Conant Elementary Schools and at the Administration and Maintenance buildings. Overall, they are estimating \$120M in capital improvement costs in long and short term needs although some of the repairs could be done in house, which is not factored into those numbers. This figure would just address capital needs to keep the buildings in their current configurations and uses. Phase 2 of the study will look at the current and future educational models for the district and how capital projects could respond to that. This phase will take place over the coming months. The Committee also had an update on their FY17 proposed budget. Unfortunately, Governor Baker's proposed state budget only includes a 1.8% increase in Chapter 70 aid so the estimated revenue numbers are down \$28k since the presentation on budget Saturday. However with some other changes, mostly due to an expected 4% increase in the health insurance trust rates instead of the budgeted 8% increase, the overall budget is down \$355k from budget Saturday, lowering Acton's assessment to a 4.5% increase over FY16. I missed the School Committee's budget hearing and meeting on February 8th as it conflicted with our rescheduled BOS meeting so I'm not sure the outcome of that discussion and vote. At their meeting on the 4th, the Committee also heard the financial report for the 2nd quarter of FY16. Right now, things look good as expenses are tracking well there appears to be \$135k in unbudgeted revenue.

The **Acton Leadership Group** met on February 9th. We will be providing an update and discussing some proposals out of that meeting at our meeting on the 22nd.

The **Recreation Commission** also met on February 9th. The Recreation Department has recently had a number of requests for a pickleball court in town. Pickleball is a racket sport similar to tennis and apparently popular with the senior demographic. The Department is going to look at options in town and see what other communities in the area are doing to address the requests for pickleball. The Commission discussed the work of the CPA Study Committee and their request for the Commission to vote on the proposal to increase the CPA surcharge. The Commission unanimously voted to raise the surcharge from 1.5-3% although it should be noted that the Chair, who was the representative to the CPA Study Committee, was absent that night and she had voted against the increase during a CPA Study Committee meeting. The Recreation Director presented a preliminary draft of the NARA Master Plan. The Department is continuing to work on the plan and will present it at a future BOS meeting. The Commission also voted unanimously to recommend to the BOS that the Morrison Farmhouse and land not be sold.

BOS Meeting, Thursday, 2/22/2016 – JKA Liaison Reports (as of 2/18/2016)

Acton Water District, Tuesday, 2/16 – Discussion of 3/18 AWD Annual Meeting warrant article regarding Town of Concord request for water hookup at Knox Trail; Commissioners propose to recommend passing over/taking no action, pursue discussions with Concord about water-supply issues.

Land Stewardship Committee, 2/16 – Missed meeting due to Acton Water District meeting at same time. Discussion of new committee website, and whether committee should take position/submit comments about 2 matters pending before Selectmen: Town of Concord water treatment facility project, and disposition of farmhouse on Town-owned Morrison property.

Minuteman Regional Vocational District – Update on member-town Special Town Meeting votes on amended regional agreement and withdrawal from Minuteman District:

Member	STM	Amended Agreement		Withdraw		Comments
		Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	
Acton	2/2	X				
Arlington	1/25	X				
Belmont	2/22					Weather-postponed from 2/8
Bolton	2/22					Weather-postponed from 2/8
Boxborough	2/24					
Carlisle	2/9	X		X		
Concord	2/4	X				
Dover	2/22					Weather-postponed from 2/8
Lancaster	2/9	X				
Lexington	2/22					Weather-postponed from 2/8
Lincoln	2/23					
Needham	2/10	X				
Stow	2/1	X				
Sudbury	2/9	X		X		
Wayland	2/11	X		X		
Weston	2/24					Weather-postponed from 2/8
Total:		9	0	3	0	

Peter J. Berry

The CPC met and members gave their recommendations for funding proposals to be presented at the ATM. It appears that the members will reach consensus on recommended levels of funding at the next CPC meeting on Feb. 25.

The Town received a letter from a Washington D. C. law firm requesting copies of the proposals seeking funding for repair of historic church properties. The firm may be preparing to sue the Town claiming violations of the federal and state constitutions for funding repairs of religious properties. The CPC, after receiving advice from Town Counsel, intends to consider the proposals to fund repairs of historic religious properties based on their merit, without consideration of a possible lawsuit.