

Peter J. Berry

Sidewalk Committee: April 13 - Met with a group of citizens concerned about the safety of walking on Willow Street from the Stow line towards West Acton and requesting that Willow Street be given a higher priority on the sidewalk list. Committee decided to review the entire priority list and reconsider placements. Reviewed the sidewalk construction status report from Corey York, Town Engineer. Reviewed the site plan for 394 Mass Ave. and determined there were sidewalks included in the design. Discussed the traffic study and proposed recommendations for the Town Center. Brainstormed suggestions from the Committee for the Complete Streets Public Forum. Discussed role of the Committee with regard to bicycle issues, including recreational and commuter bike-path planning, roadway bicycle use, and other bicycle access issues" in response to tAC's suggestion that these issues be transitioned to this Committee.

Green Advisory Board: April 11 - Now have an updated charge approved by the Selectmen to advise the town about the range of environmental issues as opposed to just energy savings. Met with Corey York to review the SMART program. Indications are that the program is achieving reductions in trash and increased recycling. GAB will vote a recommendation for the Selectmen about continuing the program when it comes up for review at the time fees are set. Spoke with Corey York about the gas leaks study the town is participating in with MAPC. Met with Selby to go over his role as Land Use and Economic Development Director. Reviewed with Selby a list of Acton 2020 action items which relate to the GAB's role. Discussed the Energy Aggregation program passed at Town Meeting. Mary Smith agreed to participate on a committee to interview and select a consultant.

Planning Board: April 19 - Approved a ground mounted solar array at 127 Stow Street. Approved sign permits for 10 Granite Road (Marcus Lewis Tennis Center) and 133 great Road (Eastern Insurance). Discussed work at Brookside Shops needed to comply with the Letter of Credit requiring the mall to complete work to minimize impact on neighbors.

Complete Streets Public Forum: April 14 - Citizens met with Corey York and representatives from MAPC to brainstorm Complete Streets' initiatives which might be eligible for funding under a \$400,000 state grant. Approximately 40 citizens present.

Janet K. Adachi

Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council, Friday, 4/1: Annual reception honoring grantees, with grantee musical and dance performances, exhibits and buffet.

Acton Community Housing Corporation, Monday, 4/11: Presentation about proposed Chapter 40B development on 12-acre Martin Street parcel by Jones Field: 21 single-family, 3 duplexes, 2 group homes (@ 4 beds) on 6 buildable acres; 3 historic homes, of which 2 to be moved to front of development.

Acton Water District, Monday, 3/28: (missed meeting so summary from District Director Chris Allen): 1) Knox Trail - Concord has abandoned proposal to hook up to AWD at Knox Trail and instead will drill bedrock well for water needs at former W.R. Grace property; 2) Nagog Pond - discussion of Concord's proposed expanded water treatment plant, Acton's rights to Nagog Pond water, and related issues including need for additional Acton water sources such as in Littleton, Concord limitations on water supply to Great Road customers in Acton (Concord policy is no new service larger than 1", which excludes fire protection and larger residential complexes); Quail Ridge abutters and Ms. Osman present.

Conservation Commission

- Wednesday, 4/6: Hearings included Town proposal for mechanical removal during summer of water chestnuts from Ice House Pond and Robbins Mill Pond; proposed replacement of Fern Boardwalk at Arboretum; and proposed replacement of Parker Street bridge over Fort Pond Brook (abutters present for this last hearing).

- Wednesday 4/20: Missed most of meeting due to attendance at Design Review Board meeting. Applicant for 276 Central Street is withdrawing Notice of Intent due to impending Town acquisition of parcel, pursuant to 2016 Annual Town Meeting approval of same.

Design Review Board, Wednesday, 4/20: Discussion included proposal before Zoning Board of Appeals to replace collapsed metal building on non-conforming commercial property at 9 Willow Street; Kelley's Corner zoning bylaw amendments, which just missed 2/3 approval at 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

Finance Committee, Tuesday, 3/29: School Committee Chairman Kristina Rycklik sought FinComm support for recommended review of outdated formula that state uses under Chapter 70 to determine local education aid that falls well short of actual costs; FinComm voted to support. Discussion of warrant articles and Committee positions. Ms. Adachi provided update on Minuteman Regional District debt-issuance article, for which she has been developing presentation and for which even she needs more financial information. FinComm will hold off voting position on article, and pursue having Minuteman administrator meet with members on 4/4 immediately prior to start of Town Meeting.

Land Stewardship Committee, Tuesday, 4/19: Discussion of potential projects for Acton-Boxborough high school seniors, including garlic-mustard removal, Arboretum tasks, other; how best to cover un stewarded Acton conservation lands that historically have lacked trails but perhaps could use more monitoring due to invasives and dumping of yard waste in wetlands, etc.; updated website

nearly ready to launch. Note: Morrison Farm birthday celebration 5/7, hosted by Acton Conservation Trust.

Water Resources Advisory Committee, 3/22: Meeting and discussion with new Land Use/Economic Development Director Matthew Selby about history of committee, possible future projects, pending Environmental Protection Agency stormwater-management permit, etc. Selby will review Acton 2020 Comprehensive Community Plan and provide WRAC with list of all water-related items.

Other

Acton Area League of Women Voters Town Meeting Forum, Wednesday, 3/30: Ms. Adachi did presentation about proposed Minuteman Regional School District debt-issuance for new building.

495/Metrowest Partnership, Wednesday, 4/6: Quarterly meeting, Executive Steering Committee.

North-South Rail Link Presentation, Tuesday, 4/12: Ms. Osman was master of ceremonies, Ms. Green also attended. Excellent, compelling speakers, including former Governor Michael Dukakis and Cambridge architect Brad Fellows and compelling proposal. Newton Mayor Setti Warren and State Senator Jamie Eldridge also offered opening remarks. Time and effective advocacy are of the essence. For more information, see website: northsouthraillink.org.

Complete Streets public forum, Thursday, 4/14: Ms. Green, Mr. Berry, Ms. Osman also attended. Discussion among breakout groups helped to flag locations in Town requiring more attention to make Town friendlier to bicycles and pedestrians, including South Acton train station area, where motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic converge; bicyclist access to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail; Great Road crossings and other areas more car-friendly than bicycle and pedestrian-friendly.

Katie Green

The **Board of Health** met on March 28th. Sheryl Ball was named the new Health Director for the Town, taking over for Doug Halley who retired last year. The Board approved a septic system variance and a hazardous waste permit. They also approved final regulations for trash haulers operating in town, requiring them to report the tonnage of waste and recyclables they collect as well as some other information. The Board also heard from two applicants proposing to open an e-cigarette/vaping store in town.

Between then and Town Meeting was mostly prep meetings related to Town Meeting. My next committee meeting was when the **Board of Health** met on April 11th. The Board reviewed the Town's proposed vegetation management plan and provided comments back to the Tree Warden (Dean Charter). They also approved a septic variance and a permit for a body art studio.

I attended the **North-South Rail Link** meeting on April 12th organized largely by Franny Osman and cosponsored by the Board of Selectmen among others. Former Governor Dukakis spoke as well as Newton Mayor Setti Warren and State Senator Jamie Eldridge. Brad Bellows gave a presentation on the history of the project as well as the current proposal and the barriers to getting it approved. He discussed the various economic, environmental, and transportation benefits of the project. It was a very informative presentation and hope the Board can continue to support the project in whatever capacity we can.

The **Historical Commission** met on April 13th. They discussed the issue of painting Town Hall. David Honn from the HDC was at the meeting and suggested that the HC and HDC host a forum on potential color schemes and invite the person who investigated the original color of Town Hall a few years ago as well as some other historic paint experts David knows. This would be a great way for people to see potential palettes and share their preferences. The Commission also spoke about the Mass Historical Commission's role in 40B projects with historic properties. Bill Klauer spoke to the MHC who indicated that they are only involved if there is state or federal funding involved in a project. They will continue to look into this issue as there are an increasing number of proposed 40Bs in Acton that include the demolition of historic properties.

I attended the **Complete Streets Forum** on April 14th. MAPC provided an overview of Complete Streets and explained that the state is offering a grant program through MassDOT to communities that have adopted a Complete Streets policy and who put together proposed, low budget projects to make Complete Streets related improvements in their town. The projects all have to be completed by the end of FY17 so they need to be things we can act on quickly. The attendees broke out into groups to discuss various priorities in town and MAPC will use that feedback as well as other information to work with the Town Engineer to put together a prioritization list. Once this list is complete, we can apply for up to \$400k in grant funding.

The **Acton Nursing Services Task Force** met on April 21st. The ANS had 15 admissions in March and currently has 6 in April. Members of the Task Force helped put together a very nice information sheet and a list of potential referral sources in the area. ANS staff has been sending customized letters and the info. sheet to these physicians to encourage them to refer their patients to ANS for any home care needs. The ANSTF is still planning to come before the Selectmen in the near future to present an update on the work they've done so far and to make recommendations on if and how the Task Force should continue in the future.

