

Peter J. Berry:

CPA Study Committee - Met to discuss next steps following delivery of the Committee's final report to the Selectmen.

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Discussed obtaining support of the Selectmen for the Committee's recommendation to increase the CPA surcharge from 1.5% to 3%. Agreed that the CPA Study Committee should be dissolved by the Selectmen because the Committee has fulfilled its charge by submitting its final report. Discussed future efforts of a citizens' committee to educate and gather support for a warrant article and subsequent ballot vote to increase the surcharge.

Health Insurance Trust - Discussed Treasurer's and Cash Flow reports. Both show a positive balance for this year. Voted exact insurance rates based on 4% increase to FY '17 plans. Reviewed and approved draft RFP for FY '17 Stop Loss Insurance. Voted to approve 3rd year of two Cook & Co. contracts for administration.

SATSAC - Discussed construction completion, schedules, noise, lighting and other issues. Discussed plans for hearing on parking rate increase. Discussed expansion of current lot, rail trail lot and additional parking possibilities.

Met with the Acton Chinese Language School Civic Committee to discuss opportunities for becoming involved in volunteering on Town boards.

Toured Conant, Gates and Douglas elementary schools with Superintendent Brand to view conditions and gather information for capital planning needs

Janet K. Adachi

Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council, Friday, 4/29: Start of annual World Film series: 5 short films by MA filmmakers. Well-attended and well-done films, with 3 filmmakers (all female) present to answer questions after screenings. Series continues Friday, 5/6: "Gloomy Sunday (Hungary); Friday, 5/13: "After the Wedding" (Denmark); Friday, 5/20: "The Lunch Box" (India).

Conservation Commission, Wednesday, 5/4: Hearings included Acton Water District proposed water main upgrade (installation of pipe liners) at various points in Indian Village and on Littlefield Road, Freedom Farme Road; construction expected start end of June-early July, finish in fall, with temporary main to serve customers during construction.

Design Review Board, Wednesday, 5/4: (missed this meeting due to Conservation Commission meeting at same time). Agenda included discussion of site plan special permit project at 429 Great Road.

Water Resources Advisory Committee, 4/27: Follow up meeting and discussion with Land Use/Economic Development Director Matthew Selby about potential future projects, including water-related items in Acton 2020 Comprehensive Community Plan.

Other

MAPC Breakfast Meeting, Bedford: Ms. Osman also attended. Updates by MA State Senators and Representatives (including Sen. Eldridge and Reps. Atkins and Benson); group discussion of first-mile-last-mile transportation issue.

Tour of Conant, Douglas, Gates grammar schools, Monday, 5/2: Mr. Berry, Ms. Green, Ms. Osman. Mr. Ledoux, Mr. Hald also attended. Arranged by Superintendent. Several members of Acton Boxborough School Committee and Acton Finance Committee also present.

495/Metrowest Partnership, Wednesday, 5/4: monthly (not quarterly) meeting of Executive Steering Committee. Discussion included upcoming Partnership meet-greet on 6/1 with MA Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack, and Partnership-hosted information session on 5/24 about new Environmental Protection Agency stormwater management permit (regulations); Metropolitan Area Planning Commission coincidentally will hold annual meeting on 5/25 in Boxborough with session on EPA permit.

Katie Green

The **Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee** met on April 28th. They welcomed the new member from Acton, Eileen Zhang, who was elected in March. Boxborough will hold their elections later this month. The committee heard a presentation from Deputy Superintendent Marie Altieri on the recent kindergarten registration process. The lottery was held completely online for the first year. The district has had more students register than initially anticipated and while they've added a section at Blanchard to meet the demand, they are still averaging about 19 kids per class at the kindergarten level with more expected to move in before the school year starts. Finance Director Clare Jeanotte also gave an update on the FY16 third quarter. Currently, revenue is looking about \$324k to the positive, mostly due to higher than anticipated regional transportation aid. Overall, expenses are looking favorable by about \$350k but special ed transportation and tuition costs have been much higher than anticipated.

On May 1st, Peter Berry and I spoke at a seminar at the **Acton Chinese Language School** co-hosted by the recently formed Acton Chinese American Civic Society. Peter and I were joined by Charlie Aronson of the Volunteer Coordinating Committee and we spoke about the process for joining a board or committee in town and how and why we got involved in town. There were about 15 people in attendance and they were all very engaged and asked a lot of interesting questions about volunteering in the community. ACACS is hoping to encourage Chinese American residents in Acton to become more involved in the community and to hopefully join more boards and committees. I very much appreciated the opportunity to speak to this group and look forward to continued collaboration with them.

On May 2nd, I joined Peter Berry, Janet Adachi, and Franny Osman for a **tour of three of the region's elementary schools**. The Acton Boxborough School District offered the tour for Selectmen and Finance Committee members as part of their work on their capital needs plan. They recently completed phase one of their capital needs assessment study and are now starting in on phase two, looking more broadly at the future space needs in the district. The group toured Conant, Douglas, and Gates elementary schools. We saw a variety of capital needs and learned about how the buildings don't function for modern day instruction. When each of these buildings were originally constructed, districts provided little or no special education services, English language learning, occupational and physical therapy, and a variety of other services that the district now provides. With growing populations in these areas, each of the schools has had to work creatively to adapt their physical spaces to these demands. It was a very interesting and informative tour.

On May 3rd, I skipped the **Acton Nursing Services Task Force** meeting to attend the **Recreation Commission** meeting. The Rec Commission discussed a call the department recently received about the pricing structure for the Mighty Minis summer program at NARA. The caller wanted an option to pay for a full day program that was less than just paying for two 1/2 day programs. The commission discussed the idea and asked the Recreation Department to come back to a future meeting with more information on the cost of running the program and a proposal for a new fee structure. The Commission also discussed and voted on the department's honoree for

Recreation Volunteer of the Year. Laura Richardt who was instrumental in forming, and continues to run, the Miracle League, will be recognized at the town's Independence Day celebration in July. The Commission also discussed the rates at Camp Acton and voted to raise them from \$15/site/night to \$25. They haven't raised the fees in many, many years and recently added a portable toilet which requires a monthly fee, so they want to make sure to recoup those costs. The Commission also reviewed the latest, almost complete draft of the NARA Master Plan. The Plan includes a history of NARA, the process they went through to create the plan, and the goals and objectives for the park over the next 10 years.

Chingsung Chang

Economic Development Committee did not meet due to lack of quorum. A small group of Economic Development Committee members is talking to Selby (Land Use Economic Development Director) soon so we can move the re-charter forward.

Historic District Commission and Board of Assessors met, nothing to report.

Franny Osman

Mar. 20 Acton Conservation Trust held its annual meeting at Town Hall. I did not attend because I was telling a story at the monthly MassMouth Storytelling event in West Acton. My story took place in Guggins Brook Conservation Land.

Mar 24 I attended the Safety Net meeting where we had a conversation with the new social worker who was hired to coordinate the jail diversion program for multiple towns: Alia Toran-Burrell.

Mar 24- Lowell Regional Transit Authority monthly meeting. As a reminder, I am the Labor and Rider Representative; Mike Gowing is Acton's rep. to this board.

Mar. 25 Climate Change Resiliency Working Group, part of a yearlong project of the MAGIC subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) met for its second of four quarterly meetings, at Acton Town Hall. Contact: Heidi Stucker, Hstucker@mapc.org or Julie Conroy, jconroy@mapc.org .

Mar. 25 At the invitation of Sunanda Sahay, I attended a monthly gathering of Indian women to talk to them about ways to get involved in Acton Town committees and organizations. It was the Holi holiday as well.

Mar. 28 Senior Center Study Committee met to finalize pre-Town Meeting plans. Dean Charter would give the presentation at Town Meeting.

Mar 28 I attended the Water Commission meeting to hear any comments they had about the Nagog Pond Concord proposals. I heard about the levels of water availability and how much we use of Concord's water from Nagog Pond.

Mar 29 I attended the 495 Metrowest Partnership Transportation meeting. We heard about grant opportunities from the state, including Complete Streets, for which Acton is in good shape.

Mar 29 Robert Creeley Foundation Reading – Pulitzer prize winning poet Tracy Smith read her poetry and we also heard poems from the high school students who won the Foundation's honor this year. Art students from the high school create artwork about the poetry of Smith, and one was chosen and produced for sale as a "broadside."

Mar. 30 Open Space Committee.

Mar. 30 At the League of Women Voters' Warrant Article forum, presenters of major Town Meeting articles explained their articles.

Mar. 31 Pre-Town Meeting Meeting with the outgoing Moderator, Don Mackenzie.

April 1 weekend, I helped work backstage at **Open Door Theater's** Peter Pan. The cooperation among people of all ages and with and without intellectual and physical disabilities, is impressive and heartwarming.

April 2 Proposed Walk from Skyline Drive to Nagog Pond to see the area with neighbors didn't happen, for various reasons

April 3- Acton Conservation Trust led a walk of the 176 Central St. land next to Mount Hope Cemetery, that would be voted on at Town Meeting.

April 4- CrossTown Connect onference Call about creating the Memo of Understanding among the various communities and Lowell and Montachusett Regional Transit Authorities (RTA's) for sharing vehicles across RTA boundaries.

April 4- COA Board Meeting

April 4, 5- Town Meeting

April 7- IBM in Littleton hosted the CrossTown Connect meeting. The state's \$50,000 funding for new Transportation Management Associations finally came through. We ironed out more details of the upcoming Memo of Understanding amongst Acton, Maynard, Boxborough and Littleton to allow vehicles from one town to pick up riders in another, even in a different Regional Transit Authority—thus allowing a van to be freed up to do a different trip. Since Littleton takes long distance trips to medical destinations, Acton residents will benefit from being able to join some of those.

April 7- Met with some Piper Rd. neighbors about the 4 Piper Lane Rear property.

April 8- Open Space Meeting. Various properties being considered.

April 9- Transportation Camp at MIT- I didn't end up being able to go, but a neighbor in the transportation field did, as did my electric-car-expert brother-in-law, and they both found this "unconference" very valuable. It is a participant-led conference.

April 11- North South Rail Link Working Group- Two events were in the works for the following day: a trip to Capitol Hill in Washington to lobby for the North South Rail Link, and the Acton presentation.

April 12- Conversation with Health Director Sheryl Ball, Ann Seamans of Friday Night Fun Club (FNFC), hearing about FNFC's transportation challenges, getting participants to activities. The CHNA15 (public health area) grant that the Health Department has might be able to help.

April 12 North South Rail Link presentation. - Thank you to the Board of Selectmen, SATSAC, and TAC, for helping to host this slideshow presentation on the North South Rail Link that would allow seamless travel and efficient operations, promoting economic development and expanding job opportunities to more than just “our side” of the city. Mayor Setti Warren, Senator Eldridge, Governor Dukakis, and Architect Brad Bellows,

April 14- Council on Aging Thank You to Volunteers event- Volunteers honored, great jazz, movie tickets given out to volunteers and delicious goodies, too.

April 14- Complete Streets meeting with MAPC, 5 and 7 pm. Since we are already a Complete Streets town, we just have to propose the use of up to \$400,000 by June 1 this year, and if we get the grant it has to be spent by June 1, 2017. The MAPC is helping our town figure out priorities for the application.

April 19- Commission on Disability.

April 24- Mosque Tour in Wayland with League of Women Voters.

April 25- Senator Jamie Eldridge hosted a meeting with Keolis, operators of the Commuter Rail, for Keolis to describe ways it has been trying to improve safety, reliability, getting familiar with and adept at running the system. I was glad to learn that Keolis has experience looking at Last Mile/First Mile transportation, and that they can look at our needs around here at least to give us advice, including use of Uber type services.

April 27- Transportation Advisory Committee meeting- Discussions with Doug Halley about the shuttle and other services, and discussion with Engineer Paul Campbell

April 28- Final Senior Center Study Committee meeting, I was out of town. They approved the final report and voted to disband the committee as our charge has been completed.

April 29- MAGIC Legislative Breakfast- Very interesting. Turned into more of a Transportation Breakfast. Executive Director of MAPC Marc Draisen and Jamie Eldridge talked about zoning reform, stormwater laws. Rep. Jen Benson talked about a bill that will change funding for state special education to follow the person (and continue into adulthood as well) so cities and towns don't have to make cuts when someone with a child with special needs moves into town because they have a sudden increase in school costs. She also mentioned the pipeline plan that was killed. Carmine Gentile: net metering, North South Rail Link, Last Mile transportation. Cory Atkins talked about the process by which bills get through or not. Omnibus bill and Mass. Cultural Council. Senator Donnelly talked about public private cooperation in transportation development to employment areas, bike trails, opioid bill that passed that he is proud of.

May 2- Tours of Conant, Douglas, and Gates Schools- The School Capital Planning Committee wanted to show the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee the schools most in need of repair and expansion. My kids went to Merriam and were mostly in the new twin school. Compared to that school, these schools were quite crowded and full of patched-together spaces. A conference room in a basement storage area, ducking under a sewer pipe in the storage room in the Douglas School, and a library squeezed into the modular classroom were clear arguments for near future investment. These schools were built for classroom teaching only, and now there are a lot of “specials” and support such as English Language Learning (the schools ranged from 36 to 51 students in this category), Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Special Education.

May 2- Interviewed Alma Sandman for the Council on Aging Board.

May 2- Council on Aging Board Meeting. Recap of Town Meeting, Ellen Feinsand completed an article for the Globe.

May 3- Massachusetts Community Coordination Transportation Conference at Holy Cross College in Worcester. CrossTown Connect was lauded for its groundbreaking inter-RTA trips, by Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. I attended sessions about community shuttles (Westboro, Acton, Dedham), and on Uber and Lyft for general use and more specifically for seniors and people with disabilities. (I made an audio tape of the Uber-Lyft forum and am happy to share it with whoee Doug Halley did a presentation on forming a TMA; Scott Zadakis of CrossTown Connect presented in the community shuttle session.

May 5- RITE anti-isolation group met to figure out how to use the remaining CHNA15 funding. Website in progress.

May 5- MAGIC Subregional meeting. We went over our work plan for the next year, heard about the Climate Resilience project, Fitchburg Rail change of schedule, MS4 Stormwater Permit. There are a lot of educational opportunities for municipalities to learn about the MS\$ (new stormwater law).