

Peter J. Berry

Green Advisory Board: Voted C. Cousins as the GAB member to be appointed to the 348-364 Main Street Master Plan Committee. The final report of the projects funded under the 2015 Green Communities grant has been accepted by the state. As of May, 2016 the Town completed conversion of 739 street lights to LED lights, with a projected annual savings of 162,976 kWh. The schools also completed energy saving projects with assistance from the grant. To view the grant report, [click here](#)

Discussion about adding electric vehicle charging stations to Town parking lots. After discussion, decided no comments are needed for the Town's draft energy aggregation plan. The plan is a preliminary and required outline to obtain DPU approval. Mary Smith offered to continue her able assistance to the Town in helping to select an aggregation company after bids are received.

Grand Opening of Discovery Woods: The Discovery Museum held a reception to celebrate the opening of their fantastic Discovery Woods tree house and play space. The Town has been recognized on a plaque for contributing CPC funding. The Town obtained an easement across the property to the entrance to Great Hill conservation land. The play space is accessible to children of all abilities.

Met with Margaret Busse and Amy Krishnamurthy to plan agenda for three board meeting (BOS, ABRSC, & FinCom) in September

Janet K. Adachi

Acton Community Housing Corporation, Monday, 7/18:

- 1) Current projects: 12 Powder Mill Road owner sold property to developer of CVS, thus ending Chapter 40B project that ACHC supported earlier. Post Office Square land, after long period of inactivity, has been cleared in recent weeks.
- 2) Morrison farmhouse, Selectmen request for comments: ACHC reaffirmed recommendation to have Habitat acquire and overhaul house as affordable housing. Municipal Properties Supervisor recently discovered 2 bee hives (and honey) in walls of house, which required dismantling portion of walls.
- 3) Other: Discussion of Housing Production Plan and ACHC progress toward goals to date. Discussion of possible public forum about potential symbiosis between economic development and affordable housing.

Design Review Board, Wednesday, 7/13: 2d meeting with project proponents for 296-298 Central Street duplex project in West Acton and discussion of proposed comments to Zoning Board of Appeals; discussion of Chapter 40B proposal at 248 High Street, and proposed comments to Zoning Board of Appeals.

Finance Committee, Tuesday, 7/12:

- 1) Discussion of FinComm best practices, with in put from former FinComm chairmen, including former (Bill Mullin) and current FinComm members (Steve Noone, Doug Tindal, Mike Majors).
 - How can members make sure they have good grasp of issues? Read periodic MA Department of Revenue reports, pick a topic and become an expert on it (Bob Evans re Health Insurance Trust, Steve Noone re Other Post-Employment Benefits, etc.); look at other resources outside of Acton, including financial officer associations.
 - How can FinComm communicate effectively with other boards? If have idea, communicate with other boards; if hear rumor, check with other board before reacting; get up front with Point of View positions (less important: doing public relations about how great FinComm is); liaisons should attend meetings of liaison assignments: more difficult to be antagonistic with someone you know; meet informally with other board members; make sure positions are fact-based, not just opinions; build support for positions; get on other committee agendas to get comments rather than email and wait for responses; on Town Meeting warrant, don't dwell on small differences with other boards, try to stick to issues of financial import; understand Proposition 2.5 and difference between override and debt exclusion.
- 2) Overview of HIT by Bob Evans and Economic Development Committee by Doug Tindal. Members also had questions about the draft electrical aggregation plan so I followed up with email of proposal and 7/11 slide presentation to Selectmen.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Tuesday, 7/19:

- 1) Attended morning training session about Chapter 40B for ZBA members. ACHC members and Town staff members also present.
- 2) Hearing on Chapter 40B proposal at 248 High Street. Hearing continued to 8/1.

495/Metrowest Partnership, Thursday, 7/14: Joint meeting of Energy & Sustainable Development, Transportation and Water Resources committees to hear presentation about MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Program by Erica Kreuter, Director of MassWorks program. Program started 2010, consolidating 6 programs. Focus is infrastructure to encourage Economic Development. Proposed projects must be shovel-ready, with anticipated start in spring: minimum 25% design, other funding sources secured and MassWorks funding being last piece of puzzle necessary to "unlock" project. Not just discretionary project to create potential, but project clearly necessary to unlock potential that already exist. To date, 181 of 602 project applications funded, including redevelopment of City Square mall in Worcester that has unlocked 565M in redevelopment. Current-year application process: create application online June-August; application deadline 9/2; notification of decisions in November. Participation in Community Compact Initiative and adoption of Complete Streets program can add points during application process. Partnership communities applying for MassWorks grants should notify Partnership, which can submit endorsement.

Assabet River Rail Trail, Maynard groundbreaking, Thursday, 7/21: Attended and spoke on behalf of Board and Town.

Net Blue discussion, Thursday, 7/21: Attended meeting with Matt Mostoller, Acton Water District Environmental Manager, and representatives of River Network and Organization of Assabet, Concord and Sudbury Rivers to discuss ongoing project of Alliance for Water Efficiency, Environmental Law Institute, and River Network to develop model local regulation that will provide for sustainable community growth with water-neutral impact, by offsetting projected water demand of new development with water efficiency measures.

Court of Honor for Eric Guditz, Sunday, 7/24: Will attend on behalf of Board.