

Janet K. Adachi

Conservation Commission, Wednesday, 8/3: Agenda included

1) Notice-of-Intent hearing for proposal of Alpha Cars, Boxborough, to construct showroom/sales location (no maintenance) at 178 Great Road (between Dunkin Donuts and Tailgaters/Pedal Power mall; project will involve demolition of existing office building at rear, incorporation of existing structure at front into new building with improved stormwater-management, recharge. Zoning Board of Appeals approved permit for expansion.

ConComm approved Order of Conditions with conditions, including applicant's provision of planting plan acceptable to Conservation Agent/Natural Resources Director and ConComm.

2) special Citizens Concerns item, during which Carolyn Kiely and Robert Sekuler, abutters to Town of Concord's Nagog Pond treatment plant, addressed Concord's pending revised proposal:

- opined that Concord should be pursuing hearing/amended order from ConComm for revised plan;

- expressed concern that Concord had not done so, and that Selectmen's 9/12 continued hearing and decision on Concord's site plan special permit request might occur without an intervening ConComm decision.

ConComm members and Natural Resources Director noted that would make no sense for ConComm to hold hearing on revised project before Selectmen had heard and accepted it, and that general project-approval process included sufficient safeguards to assure that Concord would have to secure ConComm's approval of any revised plan.

Finance Committee, Tuesday, 7/26:

1) Presentation by AB United Way Executive Director Rachel Sagan about 2015 Community Needs Assessment.

2) Overview by Town Moderator Peter Ashton of

- Finance Committee role (including as arbiter between Board of Selectmen and School Committee and producing annual Point-of-View guidance), recommendations/expectations for FinComm members (respectful conduct and communications, become specialist in a subject area, take advantage of resources including him, reports by former FinComm members such as Jon Chinitz's on reserves, which different towns handle in different ways);

- Contemplated improvements for Town Meeting process, including getting warrant information to voters sooner, have draft warrant available by end of January, providing more detail in warrant, including rationale for FinComm positions/recommendations on articles, limiting time for presentations to allow more time for audience discussion (including perhaps omitting time-consuming Town-staff preparation of slides for simple, uncontroversial articles); electronic voting, which will require Town bylaw amendment; establishing regular procedure for appointment of temporary Moderator/Assistant Town Moderator to cover situations where Moderator unavailable (due to travel, conflict-of-interest, etc.).

3) Presentation by Steve Noone re collective bargaining process (with Selectman Chairman Peter Berry weighing in), with particular focus on fact that teachers' contract covers 464

members and constitutes 29% of budget, but unlike municipal agreements, is subject to only approval by School Committee, not Town Meeting, with little participation by public or other Town boards. FinComm's annual POV is one way for committee to have impact on school district and municipal collective bargaining process.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- 1) Monday, 8/1: Continued hearing on Chapter 40B proposal at 248 High Street. Comments from Town departments, Acton Water District complete and proponents have addressed. Hearing continued to 8/10 to allow for discussion of draft decision.
- 2) Proposed meeting of ZBA and Planning Department staff to clarify roles, including in decision-drafting. I will attend meeting.

Katie Green

The **Acton Nursing Services Task Force** met on July 12th and July 26th. At both meetings, they worked on a report of their work and recommendations to send to the Board of Selectmen. Heather York also reported that she had received positive feedback on the insert about ANS in the quarterly tax bill. She also reported that there were 6 admissions in June and 7 in July as of the 26th. Overall, there were 131 admissions in FY16, up from 127 in FY15 and 125 in FY14. Charlie reported that Steve Barrett sent him preliminary numbers on FY16 and that the Nursing Service showed \$310k in revenue and \$415k in expenses for the year. This is an increase in \$75k in revenue and a decrease of \$100k in expenses over FY15. However, these numbers are still preliminary.

The **Historical Commission** met on July 13th. They also had a special meeting on the 28th that I had to miss due to conflict with the Memorial Library Trustees. Bill Klauer reported that he reached out to the Mass Historical Commission about the proposed 40B project for 248 High Street and that the MHC responded that the Supreme Judicial Court found that HDCs and HCs are local boards as concerns comprehensive permits and are advisory to the Zoning Board of Appeals. However, the Acton HC felt that there is still a question about the role of MHC in reviewing a project when it involves a property on the Cultural Resources List. The Commission agreed to send a letter with comments about the 248 High St. project to the ZBA. The Commission also reviewed the proposed 7-29 Great Road project and approved the proposal. They had previously placed a demo delay on one of the buildings on the site but that is now expired. Tory gave an update on the work she and David Honn are doing to put together a forum on paint colors for Town Hall. They are working with Andrea to set this up and are hoping to bring the woman who conducted the research on the historic colors of Town Hall.

The **Acton Memorial Library Board of Trustees** met on July 28th. Marcia announced that the cafe is now open in the solarium and has been going well. The Trustees also discussed various ideas about ways to dampen sound from the dome and will work on testing some of the ideas out. The Trustees approved an update to the library's Collection Development Policy and discussed ways to promote the elections for Trustees and to encourage more people to run for both Trustee positions specifically and also municipal positions more broadly.