

Janet K. Adachi

Acton Community Housing Corporation:

- Monday, 8/22: Presentation by developer Mark Gallagher of revised plan for proposed Chapter 40B project on Martin Street. Omission of originally proposed 2 group homes, due to lack of approval at state level (Department of Housing and Community Development and Governor's Council); 2 duplexes in place of 2 group homes. Revised plan will consist of 32 homes, including 8 affordable; 24 single homes, 4 duplexes; 4 handicapped-accessible, of which 2 will be affordable. 2 or all 3 existing homes will move to front Martin Street (1 existing home in poor condition, so unclear whether it will be preserved/moved). Allocation of affordable units will be later, in consultation with ACHC, when project reaches Zoning Board of Appeals.

- Thursday, 9/1: Brief discussion of 8/29 site visit by MA officials, Town officials, abutters, other residents for proposed Chapter 40B project on Martin Street. ACHC will submit to Board of Selectmen revised comments about Chapter 40B project on Martin Street. Bulk of meeting was for Executive Session about proposed River Street acquisition, with Land Use/Economic Development Director Matthew Selby, Assistant Town Planner Kristen Guichard and Acton Housing Authority Director Kelley Cronin present, in addition to ACHC members (and me).

Acton Leadership Group, Thursday, 9/1. Update on FY17, FY16 year-end. Discussion of proposed tri-board meetings; October Special Town Meeting, proposed ALG calendar for 2016-2017.

Acton Water District:

1) Monday, 8/15:

- Nuclear Metals site, Concord: stakeholders meeting 8/31 with federal Environmental Protection Agency. AWD has requested EPA public outreach to Acton, akin to earlier meetings for Concord residents, and in recognition that NM site also poses problem for Acton.

- Indian Village bid process: AWD has cancelled for water main improvement project, due to misunderstanding, concerns among bidders about required proprietary technology; AWD will research available alternative technology.

- Sampling for lead/copper: to start end of August for service to residences and 2 daycare facilities. AWD must test 2 educational facilities every 3 years; has done all public, now doing private facilities (currently 15). Lead piping mostly in south and west Acton, dating to/through 1939; also lead wrap/sauter used in 1980s residential construction. AWD has offered assistance to School District, which received grant to test every tap in September; water exposed within schools to lead piping, lead-lined refrigerators for bubblers. UMass to assist in training school employees; samples must be from water that has sat 6-16 hours, which means sampling for 2 hours in morning.

- Drought warning: From AWD to Town due to drought warning from State. Could continue through October. High risk for wildfire: some small fires in Boxborough, Concord, around Nagog Pond. Takes weeks of normalized climate conditions to restore groundwater levels. Water level 8" below normal. AWD has managed supply well; customers using lots of water but with restraint. 2M/day, 2.6M earlier. Compare Ipswich which has <30 days of water left. Concord recently banned outdoor water usage after testing revealed someone had broken into water tank; testing typically for readily obtainable contaminants. Littleton water supply not doing well, due to lack of use-restrictions.

2) Monday, 9/12: Missed this meeting due to conflicting Board of Selectmen meeting. Agenda included discussion of Nuclear Metals superfund site in Concord, and Town of Concord's proposal for expanded water treatment facility at Nagog Pond.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee, Thursday, 9/22: First meeting

Conservation Commission:

- Wednesday, 8/17: Discussion of Nagog Pond water treatment plan project, agreement that 1) ConComm should notify Town of Concord that significant change in proposed plan will require ConComm review; 2) no need for Concord to present revised plan to ConComm before presentation of same to Board of Selectmen.
- Wednesday, 9/7: Missed this meeting due to Design Review Board meeting at same time. Agenda included discussion of proposed addition of accessible trails along Acton portion of Assabet River, as part of larger project of Organization of Assabet, Concord, Sudbury Rivers to create trails along full length of river.

Design Review Board:

- 1) Wednesday, 8/17: Discussion of proposed 18 Wetherbee Street landscaping, pursuant to condition in Board of Selectmen decision for screening of proposed warehouse from Bruce Freeman Rail Trail; members suggested mix of evergreen and deciduous, also warehouse in dark, neutral hues that will recede.
- 2) Wednesday, 9/7:
 - Martin Street Chapter 40B project: Presentation by developer Mark Gallagher of revised plan. [See report, above, about 8/22 Acton Community Housing Corporation meeting.] Proposal for 5-6 different models that buyers will pick, most 1800 ft²; filing with MA Housing Finance means addressing architecture later, in contrast to "friendly 40B" filing with MA Department of Housing and Community Development, which pins down architecture earlier. Can build smaller model on larger lot but not larger model on too-small lot. Vinyl siding with PVC-trim windows. Stone wall and old trees along wetlands-side of driveway will remain. Comments included large number of models, need for continuity of rooflines among the proposed models; need to preserve old trees; concern about view of new units from Martin Street, need have taller models toward rear of property and lower-profile units in front.
 - 18 Wetherbee: 2d meeting about proposed planting plan to screen new warehouse from Bruce Freeman Rail Trail; DRB approved mix of evergreen/deciduous trees/shrubs.
 - 429 Great Road: Proposed amended plan, showing increased clearance for below-ground garage, building raised 1.5 feet in comparison to previous plan. Board of Selectmen approved earlier plan, conditioned on DRB's being satisfied with proponent's proposal to address concern about excess foundation exposure facing Great Road; new plan proposes big stone wall to mask exposed foundation. Proposed amended plan will be on Board of Selectmen agenda for 9/19 meeting. DRB will track down additional plans, aim to meet again and issue comments in time for 9/19 meeting.
- 3) Wednesday, 9/14: 2d meeting with 429 Great Road proponent about proposed amended plan; concern about having tall concrete wall visible to Great Road, suggestion of non-invasive substitutes for proposed Chanticleer pear trees, and ornamental grasses along concrete wall. Review of plans for new food-preparation building at 362-364 Central Street (Idylwilde). Discussion of proposed zoning bylaw amendments, which Planning Board already has recommended, so DRB will not provide formal comments.
- 4) Friday, 9/16: Meeting of DRB chairman and one member with Assistant Town Planners regarding various administrative issues: assuring that applicants communicate with DRB to schedule appointments, DRB receives in advance full paper copies of plans, and the like.

Finance Committee, Tuesday, 9/6: Town Manager presentation about 2 proposed articles for 10/5 Special Town Meeting warrant: Senior Center lease at 30 Sudbury Road, and firefighters union

collective bargaining agreement, which will facilitate Town's shift to provision of advanced life-support services effective FY18. Discussion of proposed FinComm policy on reserves. General agreement on need for upper limit for reserves, though not necessarily on specific number/percentage, and on need for Town/Board of Selectmen to develop plan for applying excess reserves to capital needs that 2 building studies have highlighted. Divided vote to recommend cap on reserves of 5% of municipal budget. Some members inclined to make excess reserves available to schools, given that schools otherwise can simply cover need in assessment to Acton; issue for Town officials to address at Acton Leadership Group meetings.

Land Stewardship Committee, Tuesday, 8/16: Discussion of

- Morrison farmhouse: majority of members believe house should be demolished; one members suggested moving house to place where could be more useful.
- 176 Central: transaction closed. Trails already exist; until LSC assigns steward, someone will provide temporary coverage.
- Camp Acton: ongoing effort to make one campsite accessible to individuals with mobility challenges, for example, raised fire pit area, tent platform, wheelchair storage area. Steward conferring with Natural Resources Department about design; suggestions that seek input from Richardts of Miracle Field organization, and Commission on Disabilities.
- September agenda will include discussion of trail maps available online; Acton Police would like high-resolution, enlarged maps of Acton conservation lands, so LSC mapping group will schedule meeting with Deputy Chief Rich Burrows.

Minuteman Regional School District: Public outreach efforts regarding District-wide ballot vote on 9/20 about proposed school building project debt: links on Town website, public information session on 9/8 (2 audience members, including Beacon reporter and Ms. Osman).

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- 1) Wednesday, 8/10: Continued hearing on Chapter 40B project at 248 High Street. Discussion of comments from Town departments and committees, including issue of preserving and incorporating existing house into project. Members agreed that not practicable to require project proponents to save house: . Vote to close hearing. Will take up draft decision at next meeting.
- 2) Tuesday, 8/23: ZBA discussion with Planning Department of proposed procedure for input/support from Planning staff members, including as to drafting of decisions and necessity of certain boilerplate conditions.
- 3) Monday, 9/12: Missed this meeting due to conflicting Board of Selectmen meeting.

Other Meetings/Activities:

- 1) Nuclear Metals update meeting, Wednesday, 8/31: Acton Water District and Green Acton representatives present, along with representatives of US Environmental Protection Agency, MA Department of Environmental Protection, consultants, engineers, Town of Concord, etc. I learned of meeting at last minute, attended with intervention by Matt Mostoller of AWD. Meetings with Concord representatives since 2004; going forward, will include Acton representatives and hold Acton-focused public information meetings.

2 principal contaminants: 1) uranium, which is contained on-site, tends to bond with soil and not move, and will be focus of longer-term cleanup effort; 2) 1,4 dioxane, which moves and has become growing issue in recent years, due to risk at much lower levels of exposure, as well as improved capacity of lab-testing to detect at those low levels. Is focus of separate, current cleanup effort that

cannot wait for completion of ongoing negotiations and agreement about NM site cleanup. (Demolition of all buildings recently completed after years to clean out buildings.) AWD has detected 1,4 in wells; testing has confirmed that 1,4 moving under river, which previously was presumed to be impassable barrier. Theory that effect of Assabet well pumping on movement of 1,4 plume might be more discernible now, with operation of Knox Trail gravel pit, and rock-washing, having ceased a few years back and no longer masking the effect of pumping on 1,4 plume. Proposal to install extraction wells, both to remove/treat 1,4 and to control plume. Trucks will transport contaminants off-site, whether materials used to treat/extract 1,4 on-site, or, if 1,4 can't be extracted, water with 1,4 unextracted. Funding for 4 years, to set up system, with provisions to secure additional funding. Acton representatives noted Acton residents' concern, given history with WR Grace, about risk to drinking water supply, possibility of slow and possible ineffective remediation, need for equity. Note: 1,4 was not found at WR Grace site until 2006 so wasn't in EPA Record of Decision for WR Grace site. **For further information about cleanup to date and near-term plans, see nmisite.org**

2) Forum, Painting Historic Exteriors (hosted by Historical District Commission, Historical Commission), Wednesday, 8/31: Mr. Berry, Ms. Green also attended. Town Hall built 1863 at time when building-color trend shifting from Greek-revival pale greys/whites mimicking marble to richer colors that would blend better with natural surroundings. Which is why recommendation for restoration of original Town Hall earth-tone colors: cream siding, dark brown trim, black window frames, dark green shutters. Painting of Town Hall with mustard yellow and brown trim probably represents brief period of deviation from correct color. Proliferation of white with black trim in 1940s because cheap, colors in short supply. Harvard, MA Town Hall is miniature of Acton Town Hall; Harvard interested in pursuing color change but waiting to see what Acton does. Discussion of creating/circulating computer-generated image of Town Hall with historically correct shades (as distinct from the notorious painting).

3) 495/Metrowest Partnership Executive Steering Committee, Wednesday, 9/7: Discussion of proposed 2016 awards event, and annual conference; potential meet/greet with MA Secretary Ronald Walker, Labor & Workforce Development. 10/19 state economic development summit; 10/14 T4Mass Innovative Mobility event that will lead to white paper on innovate transportation, such as self-driven, Uber, etc. Ongoing hearings on proposed increases in Route 90/Mass. Turnpike tolls, with installation of gantries and new rates seeming to favor EZPass-users; new rates supposed to be equitable, reflecting cost of turnpike upkeep; but still need clarification about why rates for some routes will increase dramatically.

Franny Osman

MAGIC = Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination

MAPC= Metropolitan Area Planning Council

LRTA= Lowell Regional Transit Authority

MassDOT= Massachusetts Department of Transportation

In bold, Lisa... Report from earlier this summer, not sure if it was included in a packet already:

Selectman Report (Osman)

This will be a quick summary report.

The COA is taking the summer off.

Open Space Committee is meeting this Friday, July 8. Great news: that the Town closed on 176 Central (next to Mt. Hope Cemetery). Much discussion of the 6 Piper Lane property. Neighbors of Nagog Pond came and requested that Concord's presentation be limited at the upcoming meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee is meeting July 13. They are moving more into biking issues lately, but do keep on top of the van and bus status with the help of Doug Halley.

Commission on Disabilities held its annual retreat a couple of weeks ago, where we had time to delve into various discussions. We saw the great "Kids on the Block" puppets, a program that the Commission has revived and will do with Jr. High kids and elementary.

In June, I attended two presentations about the South Station Expansion Environmental Impact Report that is forthcoming; both meetings drew neighbors who did not want the train storage in their areas (Hyde Park, South Boston) that the Expansion would bring, and many supporters of the North-South Rail Link spoke out against the Expansion.

CrossTown Connect has been hashing out the details of sharing vehicles town to town. The resulting cooperation will give cheaper fares and more trip options to Acton residents. The CAT bus is now wheelchair accessible. CrossTown Connect is applying for a federal Mobility on Demand grant, with Uber and Lyft as partners, to try to fill gaps in transit with more Mobility on Demand.

June 22, I was honored as an "Unsung Heroine" by the Mass. Commission on the Status of Women, on which Marianne Fleckner is a commissioner. Jen Benson had nominated me. The event was quite moving, with 125 active women being honored.

Selectmen Report for Sept. 19

8/12/16, 9/1/16- Open Space Meetings

Discussion of various potential land purchases including Stonefield Farm and the Lazaro property on River St. The Open Space Committee wrote a letter to the Board of Selectmen about the Concord Nagog Pond application.

6/17/16, 8/29/16- CrossTown Connect Meeting- Discussion of details of the sharing of vehicles which began this summer. The challenge is finding the common denominator in policies and

pricing so that all Towns can share the services. This program has meant lower prices for many residents; free rides to Councils on Aging; interesting new services available to Acton residents that we don't provide but our partner towns do. Discussion of first mile/last mile needs (getting to and from the train). Potential application for federal "Mobility on Demand (MOD) Sandbox" grant. We did end up writing an application for that. CTC finally received the \$50,000 that new Transportation Management Agencies get through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

8/22/16- CrossTown Connect- Last Mile Shuttle Subcommittee- This was the second of three such meetings we have had or will have (Sept. 19 is the third) where we studied various residential and business needs and the train schedules, and tried to plan the routes and timing for the commuter-timed use of the Council on Aging vans before and after hours as per federal Community Transit grant funding for this purpose. The challenge is choosing which early and late train or trains to meet in a way that won't interfere with the day's work of the Council on Aging van.

If you are reading this and haven't responded to the short survey about transportation awareness, please do so at:

<http://app.keysurvey.com/f/1053850/358c/>

8/22/16- Council on Aging Board

Presentation by Sharon Mercurio on the selected site at 30 Sudbury Rd. for a leased Senior Center.

9/12/16

At the Senior Center, a presentation by Steve Ledoux, Chip Orcutt (manager of the selected site at 30 Sudbury Rd.) and Sharon Mercurio, on the 30 Sudbury Rd. site.

9/8/16- MAGIC meeting, Lincoln

Presentation by Martin Pillsbury of the MAPC reviewed the new MS4 (Municipal Separate Stormwater System) permit requirements and how they will affect towns' workloads. It would be useful to look at www.neponsetstormwater.org, the result of a Community Innovation Challenge grant-supported collaboration of several towns in dealing with stormwater, where they apparently provide useful information.

Other presentations on the ongoing Climate Change Plan (Oct. 3 meeting planned for the working group); Bedford's navigating redevelopment of Coast Guard property near Bedford Center; Bolton applying for Green Community Status; OARS on state policies, MS4, increasing water demands; CrossTown Connect on the pilot commuter shuttle program to be started later this fall; and 495 Metrowest Partnership's Suburban Edge Community Commission.

7/26/16, 8/23/16, 9/13/16- Acton Housing Authority Meetings

The Housing Authority is in conversation with their related state agencies in changing regulations so there can be a tenant position on the Authority. New furniture is being ordered

for the community room at Windsor Green. There was an executive session for discussion of potential purpose by the Town of 53 River St., the Lazaro property.

8/16/16- Commission on Disability meeting- Much business including planning a spring public event; site visits; transition plan; Kids on the Block program with school kids. Full minutes would be helpful for anyone interested in the details of what is going on with the Commission.

Katie Green

I attended the **Acton Nursing Services Task Force** meetings on August 9th and 23rd. The Task Force continued to work on their final report to the Board of Selectmen at both meetings. At the second meeting in August, Heather York spoke about a trail program from Medicare that will be starting in MA related to extra reviews for home care agency billings. The program will require pre-claim billing reviews before agencies can send a final bill to Medicare which will take additional time for agencies like ANS to get paid.

I attended the **Historical Commission** meeting on August 10th. The Commission met with a potential developer of 184 Main Street. They had preliminary discussions of his plans and scheduled a walk through of the property. They also discussed the Martin Street 40B project and will comment on it when there's a revised proposal. They also discussed other 40B projects with historical properties and the process for commenting on those in a timely manner.

I attended the **Board of Health** meeting on August 15th. The Board heard two tobacco sales violations for convenience stores found selling cigarettes to under age persons. They also heard an appeal relating to the location of a septic system leeching field on a neighboring property and heard a variance on another septic system.

The **348-364 Main Street Master Planning Committee** met on August 24th and September 6th. On the 24th, we elected me as Chair, Bill Mullen as Vice-Chair, and Doug Herrick as Clerk. At the first meeting we discussed the property and the process for master planning it. We discussed getting information on both private and public uses for the land. As a general outline for our master planning process, we agreed to gather more information on the current state of the property, discuss a variety of future uses for the property, and then discuss the process for getting from the current state to the future state. For our September meeting, Selby gathered information on the appraisal, lease with Kennedy, zoning regulations, and he had discussions with some local commercial brokers. We started the meeting with a site walk of the property and then discussed potential uses for the property. Prior to our next meeting in October, each committee member will have a discussion with the board or committee they represent to solicit additional ideas for potential uses.

The **Acton Memorial Library Board of Trustees** met on August 25th. They discussed some of the metrics they use when looking at the use of the library and how to best measure that use. They also continued their discussions on options for dampening the sound under the dome. The Trustees also voted on a recommended FY18 budget that Marcia will recommend to the Town Manager.

On August 31st, I attended the **Historic Paint Forum**. Janet and Peter were also in attendance. Tory Beyer from the Historical Commission provided a brief summary of Town Hall and then Sarah Chase, a preservationist consultant, discussed historical paint colors and how she investigates the historic colors of buildings like she did with our Town Hall. We also saw some examples of the original colors of Town Hall and discussed why they building was those colors.

I attended the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** meeting on September 1st. I missed their business meeting in August as it was the same night as ours. The Committee discussed the proposed contract with AFSCME, which represents the janitors and maintenance workers. The contract would be for 3 years with a 1.75% increase in each year with a one time 1% increase in the top step. There were also some minor grade changes for a few positions. The Committee also reviewed the Superintendent's proposed goals for FY17 and will vote on those at their next meeting. The Superintendent also announced that, starting on October 1st, the front doors will be locked on all school buildings except the high school. I asked about what they will do on election days and the Superintendent indicated that there would likely be exceptions to the policy on certain occasions. The committee also unanimously voted a statement in support of the September 20th ballot question on the Minuteman High School building project.

I attended the Opening Meeting for the **League of Women Voters** on September 7th. Peter was also present. Our new Town Moderator, Peter Ashton, gave a presentation on his views of the role of Town Moderator and his suggestions for potential changes to Town Meeting, including electronic voting, increasing the amount of information available prior to Town Meeting, and keeping our presentations shorter and crisper. We'll try some of these out at our upcoming special Town Meeting in October! On September 13th, I also participated in the League's Voter Registration drive by volunteering at Conant's Back to School night. Fortunately most people who stopped by were already registered but I did hand out information on how to register online to a few new residents in town. As a reminder, you must register by October 19th to be eligible to vote in the general election in November.

I attended the **September 11th** Memorial ceremony at the monument in front of the Public Safety Facility. It was a solemn and well done ceremony recognizing the 15th anniversary of September 11th.