

Janet K. Adachi

Acton Leadership Group, Thursday, 10/13: Updates on FY17 projections (principally revenue, which is +100K), and capital-planning efforts. Discussion of Finance Committee's draft Point of View for FY18 budget-planning season: draft will circulate to Selectmen and School Committee for review and possible discussion at respective meetings, with opportunity for further discussion at planned 3-boards meeting on 11/15.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

- Thursday, 9/22: First meeting. In addition to building-related projects, committee's purview likely to include sewer-district expansion, less predictable land-acquisition proposals. Superintendent Brand provided update on schools' ongoing capital planning efforts. Steve Noone of Finance Committee and I will serve as co-chairmen. For October meeting, plan is to visit fire stations.
- Thursday, 10/27: Tour of 3 fire stations with Fire Chief Robert Hart via CrossActon Connect bus.

Conservation Commission, Wednesday, 10/19: Single hearing, about proposed deck addition and installation of bulkhead.

Design Review Board, Wednesday, 10/19: Missed first part of meeting to attendance at Conservation Commission meeting. Meeting with proponents for proposed new building at Idylwilde Farms, 262-264 Central Street. Follow-up meeting with proponents for project at 429 Great Road, in accordance with condition of Board of Selectmen site plan special permit decision. Review of 394 Mass. Ave definitive subdivision plan.

Finance Committee, Tuesday, 10/25: Presentation by AB Comparative Communities Subcommittee, which included FinComm member Steve Noone, about Comparative Communities study (encompassing AB, Belmont, Hingham, Lexington, Needham, Reading, Wachusett, Wellesley, Westford, Winchester). Discussion of Steve Noone's recommendations for Acton Leadership Group spreadsheets (include actual numbers once available and not simply projections), and Town Meeting warrant (provide information about current budget and not simply proposed/future budget); formation of subcommittee to study how to improve warrant. Discussion of 10/6 Dorr & Whittier presentation to School Committee about school building options. Discussion of revised Point-of-View.

Land Stewardship Committee, Tuesday, 10/18: Presentation by proponents for proposed subdivision at 19 Spring Hill Road, and proposed mitigation in the form of improvements for proposed accessible campsite at Camp Acton: accessible composting toilet, access road and possible shifting of investment in proposed parking spaces for Spring Hill conservation area to Camp Acton project. Committee took no formal position on project or proposed mitigation.

Minuteman Regional School District:

- Monday, 10/17, Lexington: District member-town representatives meeting re Town of Belmont and its anticipated request to withdraw from District. 9 of 16 member-towns present. Belmont officials present and offered varying opinions on town's disapproval earlier in 2016 of building project, and reasons for pursuing withdrawal from District.
- Wednesday, 10/19: Belmont Special Town Meeting (representative town meeting) voted to withdraw from District. Belmont Clerk must notify District within 7 days; School Committee then must forward notice to District members, who have 60 days to weigh in on proposed withdrawal via

special town meetings. In the absence of special town meeting, member-town will be deemed to have approved withdrawal. Approval requires majority vote. Under standard withdrawal provision of regional agreement, Belmont must remain member for 3 years, with withdrawal effective 7/2020; due to annual Town Meeting vote of disapproval, and 10/19 vote to withdraw, no financial obligation starting in FY20 for new-building project

- Thursday, 10/20: District thank-you luncheon at Minuteman student-run restaurant, Fife & Drum.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Monday, 10/3: Missed meeting; continued hearing on 16 Maple Street project.

Other Meetings/Activities:

AB School Committee, Thursday, 10/6: Dorr & Whittier presentation of summary of recommendations re school building renovation/replacement options.

495/Metrowest Partnership

- Board of Directors, Wednesday, 10/5: Annual awards reception to take place Thursday, 10/27, Cumberland Farms. Private sector recipient: Ari Hasiotes, President/CEO of Cumberland Farms; public sector recipient: retiring State Rep. John V. Fernandes (10th Worcester Dist.).

- Thursday, 10/27: Will attend annual awards reception.

Court of Honor for Jack Lansden Maddox, Saturday, 10/15: Attended on behalf of Selectmen.

Katie Green

The **348-364 Main Street Master Planning Committee** met on October 20th. Three of the abutters attended at our invitation and expressed some of their concerns and desires for the site. The Committee also discussed various uses for the site as proposed by members of the committees represented on the master plan committee. Uses included solar lease, community/senior center, historic home showcase area, park, community gardens, something that would provide a source of revenue, a splash park, and affordable housing. The Committee would like to see potential ways to marry a number of these or other ideas together on the site and expressed an interest in having a landscape architect come in, meet with the group, and then draft a few, high level proposals for potential uses of the site. The committee agreed to approach the Town Manager to ask for funding for this request.

On October 24th, I met with Debra Simes and Jim Snyder-Grant from Green Acton to prepare for the discussion on natural gas at our December 5th meeting. We discussed a number of issues and information to include in their presentation and determined that it would be helpful to meet with town staff so have scheduled a follow up meeting with Selby.

The **Acton Memorial Library Trustees** met on October 27th. The library is getting four T-Mobile hot spots that they will lend out to users. There is also a new and very popular mobile app for the library. It includes a digital copy of your card so as long as you have your phone, you can check out a book! The front doors were installed at the library and have been met with good reviews so far.

Peter J. Berry

SATSAC: Sept. 29 - late to the meeting because of Moderator's pre-town meeting; discussion about station lighting on Maple St. intruding into homes; MBTA has agreed to Senator Eldridge's request to remedy the situation by reducing wattage and lowering the lights; work will be accomplished soon; further discussion about kilowatts of LED lights in light of amendments to outdoor lighting by-law; discussion about MBTA's proposed raised solar panel array on RR St. and possible objections by HDC; Corey York spoke about putting solar panels over the main parking lot; discussion about Complete Streets grant and connection between the train station and BFRT; turn lanes from Rt. 27 onto Maple St. connecting with station's south side drop off area.

Sidewalk Committee: Oct.12 - Discussions with residents about Sidewalk ranking priority for Stow St. from Martin to Robbins and about Taylor Road from Minot to Rt. 2; discussion with Dean Charter, Tree Warden, about replacing trees taken down to build sidewalks, Cameron Cousins to follow up with Town staff about a tree replacement policy and plans for planting trees as part of the Kelley's Corner infrastructure improvements, voted to recommend contributions to the sidewalk funds for new subdivisions on Spring Hill Rd. and Brucewood Rd.

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Minuteman Regional School District:

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- District thank-you luncheon, Thursday, 10/20, Lexington.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Monday, 10/3: Missed meeting; continued hearing on 16 Maple Street project.

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Katie Green

I attended an informal meeting organized by the **Smart Growth Alliance** on October 4th. Local activists 10 communities came together to discuss challenges and opportunities for supporting smart growth in the Greater Boston region. I shared some of our experiences with promoting smart growth, increasing our affordable housing options, and changing our zoning laws to encourage more smart growth options. It was interesting to hear similar experiences in other communities and to learn about their successes and failures.

The **Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee** met on October 6th. The Committee began their meeting with a presentation from the consultants Dore and Whittier on the district's capital master plan process. Janet Adachi and a few members of the Acton Finance Committee also attended this portion of the meeting. There will be a public presentation on the final results of the study on November 9th. The consultants presented a preview of the final report including the various options they are recommending to address future capital needs. These options considered the existing conditions of the district's buildings as well as enrollment projections and future educational needs based on the consultant's research and various visioning sessions they've held over the past few months. The options provide a variety of solutions mostly aimed at the elementary schools. These include building a new twin school and converting an existing elementary school to an early childhood center, or building a triple school with two elementary schools and an early childhood elementary center, or other variations on this theme. The total costs in each option for dealing with all of the capital needs of the district including building new and/or renovating existing elementary schools are estimated at between \$240-\$290M. More information is available on the district's website and will be covered at the presentation on November 9th. After the capital master plan presentation, the Committee heard presentations from Merriam and Douglas elementary schools on their school improvement plans. The Committee also heard a presentation from Superintendent Brand on the district's long range strategic plan. This plan includes goals around the social and emotional needs of students, the equability of opportunities for all students, and creating safe environments. The Committee will further discuss the plan at a future meeting.

The **Historical Commission** met on October 12th. The Commission discussed Concord's water treatment plant proposal and the comments that the Commission submitted to MEPA. They also discussed uses for the Morrison Farmhouse per the Selectmen's request and will email comments and ideas prior to our meeting. They also discussed possible uses for the 348-364 Main Street property per the request of the Master Plan Committee to have the boards and committees represented on the Master Plan Committee offer comments prior to our next meeting. They also discussed an email they received about a proposal for a solar panel installation on the MBTA owned parking lot on Railroad Street. The Commission will follow up with Corey York to get more information about that proposal and a potential follow up to add solar at the main lot on Central Street.

I also submitted an entry for the Cucurbit Farm Scarecrow Making Contest. The Acton farm partnered with the National Alliance for Mental Illness to stand up to the stigma of mental

illness. The entry fees support NAMI's work to support, educate, and advocate on behalf of families coping with mental illness. The many entries are on display at the farm for the month of October. I encourage everyone to drive by the farm in the next few weeks to check them out. As a hint, mine is the one with a Wizard of Oz theme!