

2/29/12

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**Town of Acton
BOARD of SELECTMEN**

February 29, 2012
Room 204, Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

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MEETING AGENDA

Discussion and recommendations:

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

2/29/12

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Christine Joyce

From: Christine Joyce
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:54 PM
To: Doug Tindal; Steve Ledoux; Allen Nitschelm; Roland Bartl; Mike Gowing; John Murray; Elizabeth Franklin; Doug Halley; 'Atkins, Cory - Rep. (HOU)'; Steve Noone
Cc: Board of Selectmen
Subject: Attendance at the Special February 29th meeting at 7:00 p.m. room 204
Importance: High

The Board of Selectmen have called a Special Meeting to work on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for 2012 on February 29, 2012.

To that end, you are invited to attend and briefly talk about your Articles. There are no timed appointments and the Board will probably go down the Article List #9 to #55 (skipping the Consent Articles)

Meeting begins promptly at 7:00 in Room 204 the Board will be making decisions and recommendations at this meeting in order to make the posting deadline, work must be completed at this meeting.

Christine Joyce

2/29/12 (3)

From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: Acton 2020 Committee; Margaret Busse
Subject: RE: Positioning Acton 2020 plan in Town Meeting

I strongly agree with Margaret on this and urge the Board of Selectmen to give it serious thought.

Roland Bartl, AICP
Planning Director
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 929-6631

-----Original Message-----

From: Margaret Busse [<mailto:bussehome@comcast.net>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 2:29 PM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: Acton 2020 Committee
Subject: Positioning Acton 2020 plan in Town Meeting

Hello Board of Selectmen! I hope you are all well during this super busy season! First, I want to thank you for all your support for Acton 2020, most especially for John being a committed member of our committee. Second, I wanted to check in with you re: the placement of the vote for the Acton 2020 plan during Town Meeting. Right now, from what John has told me, it seems that it may come up Tuesday or perhaps Wednesday. I am petitioning you to move it up, and give it a clear date. In 1990, the last time a vote was taken for a new plan, the plan was item #3, taken up immediately after choosing town officers and accepting reports, as you can see in the attachment. Roland recalls that this was done with special exception because town leaders felt it was important enough to warrant this treatment.

I really feel that putting the vote on the Acton 2020 plan towards the beginning would be greatly beneficial for a few reasons:

1) Demonstrates that the plan is important. If we really want to show that the plan is important and will be the town's guiding document for many years to come, we need to give it prominence at Town Meeting. This is a once in a 15-20 year-type situation that many people have worked on for several years to get it to where it's at now. Relegating it to the latter part of Town Meeting does not show this importance.

2) Builds political will for and awareness of the plan. As you know, legally, the master plan does not need Town Meeting approval, only approval from the planning board. However, as I understand it, Acton (and most other communities) want to have the Town Meeting approve its master plan in order to build political will for it as well as educate people about it. If this is the reason for us to take it to Town Meeting, then to push it to a position on late Tuesday night or possibly Wednesday, when crowds have whittled down significantly, seems to contradict that purpose-- fewer people have the opportunity to both learn about it and express their opinion about it.

3) Allows for people to have a set time to come out to support the plan.

Our Acton 2020 committee would like to be able to get as many people out to hear about/vote on the plan as possible, but it will be an extremely hard sell to do this if we have to say, effectively, "We don't know when the vote will take place, so just plan on coming to all three nights of the meeting."

There are very few people who can take three nights away from their family to attend Town Meeting.

As was done in 1990, I urge you to consider moving up the vote on the Acton 2020 plan to Monday night, towards the beginning of the evening.

Thanks for your consideration.

Margaret