



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2019

7:00 PM

Acton Water District Conference Room

693 Massachusetts Avenue

Acton, MA 01720

Present: Lucy Kirshner, Robert Sekuler, Matthew Mostoller, Ron Beck, Barry Rosen, Joan Gardner (BoS Liaison)

Absent: None

Chairperson: Ron Beck

Clerk: Barry Rosen

1. Opening

Chairperson Beck opened the meeting at 7:10 PM. A quorum was present along with two guests.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the WRAC meeting held on April 24, 2019 were reviewed. On a motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Ms. Kirshner, seconded by Mr. Sekular and approved by a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No and 1 abstention.
- B. Citizens' Comments/Remarks – Ms. Kastens reminded us that the W.R. Grace review was underway as part of the 5-year review. She mentioned that Cheryl Ball (Health Department) does have this on her “radar.” Mr. Mostoller mentioned that this review was also requested in 2015 but people were told that it should wait until now.
- C. Discussion and Review of “Actionable Items From Water Workshop”
 - a. Mr. Beck stated that we’ve used a great deal of time up to this point and there is a need to get this done soon. Too much time is going by. If we don’t complete our task this evening, perhaps we need to consider a Saturday meeting—perhaps by a subcommittee so we can move toward a presentation to the BoS.
 - b. Mr. Mostoller suggested that we “target” a June meeting of the BoS.



- c. Mr. Sekuler asked Ms. Gardner how one gets onto the agenda of the BoS meetings? Lisa sets-up the agenda. Mr. Sekuler volunteered to speak with Lisa to obtain a date in June when the WRAC could present its thoughts and plans to the Board to receive feedback and hopefully approval to proceed.
- d. Both Mr. Beck and Mr. Sekuler expressed the opinion that the “Acton’s Future” section of the plan would be the “driver” – the section that should be presented. This section is the one that contains demand and supply.
- e. Mr. Mostoller reiterated that demand and education should be addressed concurrently.
- f. Mr. Rosen supported this concept and stated his belief that education will assist the town (citizens and town employees) in better understanding the concepts around water thereby making enforcement easier. Most people will abide by a rule if they understand the reasoning behind it.
- g. Most feel that the first year’s work will consist primarily of discovering what we know and what we want to know while working toward a 3-pronged approach that would include wastewater and land management.
- h. The consensus from the last meeting and carried over to this meeting was that we should start with *demand* (which has imbedded in it more viewpoints and politics) followed by *supply*. Phase #1 would then have 3 intertwined parts to it:
 - i. Demand
 - ii. Supply
 - iii. Wastewater (and land management)

D. Resources –

- a. We realize that even though it’s expected that much of the work on phase 1 can be accomplished without consultants; there will be indirect expense to the town as town employees will be needed to assist the WRAC.
- b. The initial estimate is about 100 person hours of staff time including assistance and understanding of the available GIS system.
- c. Action Item: Mr. Rosen will put together a spreadsheet of the Water Workshop attendees which will include their positions. It will be sent to the WRAC in order to assist the subcommittee in preparing their estimates.
- d. Action Item: Mr. Beck will form a small subcommittee to help move the initial plan forward and to estimate the town employee expertise that the WRAC believes it will require during phase 1.
- e. Mr. Sekuler moves and Mr. Rosen seconds that Mr. Beck is authorized to write an email to the BoS requesting that the WRAC water study be added to their list of priorities during the goal setting meeting. The motion passed unanimously.



- f. Action Item: It was noted that Santiago Rivero, the student from A-B High School has not attended the last few meetings of the committee. Mr. Rosen will send an email to him to ascertain his future interest in working with the WRAC.

3. **New/Special Business**

A. Discussion of WRAC Officers Going Forward –

- a. Mr. Beck discussed his absences due to work related travel requirements—some which were unforeseen. He noted that if the WRAC can plan its meeting schedule further in advance, it would make it easier for him to attempt to manage his travel around the meetings.
- b. Mr. Rosen asked to be relieved of the clerk position for the next year. Mr. Mostoller indicated that he would be available for that position beginning with the next meeting of the WRAC.
- c. On a motion by Mr. Beck, seconded by Ms. Kirshner, the membership voted to appoint Mr. Mostoller as clerk by a vote of: 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention.
- d. The WRAC officers for the next year will be:
 - i. Chairperson: Mr. Ron Beck
 - ii. Vice Chairperson: Ms. Lucy Kirshner
 - iii. Clerk: Mr. Matthew Mostoller

B. WRAC Membership –

- a. Mr. Sekuler told us that Ms. Carolyn Kiely was interested in joining the WRAC. She has submitted her name to the VCC. She was out of the country during this meeting but should be back shortly. The members reacted positively her interest.
- b. Ms. Kirshner stated that Mr. Ronald Parenti (former AWD Water Commissioner) had expressed interest in joining the WRAC. The membership thought that this was also a positive step and asked Ms. Kirshner to ask Mr. Parenti to submit his name to the VCC.

C. Next Meeting –

The next meeting of the WRAC will take place on THURSDAY (change of day), May 23, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the conference room of the Acton Water District, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA 01720.

4. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Rosen, seconded by Mr. Beck, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 9:35 PM.