

Water Resources Advisory Committee  
Selectmen's Oversight Subcommittee  
September 23, 4:30 p.m.  
AWD Conference Room  
693 Mass. Ave, Acton, MA

The meeting opened at 4:37 p.m. with Mr. Rosen and Ms Holley. Mr. Beck arrived at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Rosen and Ms Holley discussed what had been decided for presentation inclusion at the last meeting. The group had concluded that:

- The next by-law and manual would not be ready for presentation at 2011 town meeting.
- The by-law and manual were intertwined, and both cannot be ready in time
- Existing manuals, by-laws and regulations from other towns will be reviewed, but Acton will have its own quirks that need to be taken into account – it has to be determined what the town wants to look like, what it wants in terms of quality of life, how stringent it wants its standards to be.
- Third party technical support will be required
- Town staff technical support will be required to survey existing impervious surface ratios in the various subwatersheds, etc.
- An RFP should be drafted for the third party assistance, and the WRAC will assist in this effort
- It has not yet been determined how enforcement will affect the multiple town departments – Engineering, Planning, Building and Health. It is too early to tell which department should shepherd the process, if the entire process should go under a department, or if it should be parceled out with different phases under the aegis of different departments
- Existing town bylaws and regulations need to be reviewed to determine if there will be “housekeeping” amendments required when this bylaw comes before town meeting.

There was some discussion about how much effort the group needs to devote to the issue of Wastewater Management Districts (WWMDs) over the next year, as the WANT is starting to look into the WWMD model.

It was agreed that before the next WRAC meeting next Wednesday, the subcommittee will meet to approve the minutes of this meeting, quickly review the slides, and disband.

It was agreed that the request for a consultant needed to be as specific as possible – we want somebody to help with x, y and z, including drafting performance standards. How do we write measurable performance standards? Mr. Beck brought up the example of Zone IIs – do we want increased levels of certain parameters? Ms Holley noted that we want to ensure protection without inviting litigation. Mr. Beck asked, how does one deal with exceptions?

Self-education activities were recapped: Ron went to an EPA seminar, Carol and Barry went to the OAR/CWA event in Maynard, Carol and Barry also went to an EPA symposium at the Doyle Center in Leominster, and Carol returned to Leominster to a Mass Audubon event about land use and water protection. Also, some committee members attended a DRB meeting where there was a presenter on pervious concrete, and the WRAC invited the DRB to a presentation on LID by Steve Roy.

Public education efforts included a public meeting in November 2009, and Ron taped the presentation for multiple airings on public access TV.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Holley  
Clerk