



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019
7:30 PM

Conference Room, Acton Water District, 693 Massachusetts Avenue

Present: Ron Beck, Barry Rosen, Matthew Mostoller, Lucy Kirshner, Ronald Parenti (Associate), Joan Gardner (BOS Liaison)

Absent: Robert Sekuler

Chairperson: Ron Beck

Clerk: Matthew Mostoller

1. Opening

Chair Ron Beck opened the meeting at 7:30 PM

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the Water Resources Advisory Committee’s August 22, 2019 and September 9, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of 4 yes, 1 abstention.
- B. Citizens Remarks/Comments – Kim Kastens mentioned she will be traveling to Washington DC to meet with the US EPA Administrator as part of a quarterly Superfund roundtable convened by the Center for Health, Society, and Justice. She will have approximately 5-7 minutes to present the case for reopening the Record of Decision (ROD) for the WR Grace Superfund site. She will be seeking support from the Town and Water District to show local community support for this request. Communities in Montana and Wyoming have both been successful in having the ROD reopened as a result of this venue. Terra Friedrichs wanted the WRAC to know that despite having safe harbor status from the 40B projects, it was not looking like the Town was going to slow down housing production as a result.
- C. Discussion of joint meeting between Board of Selectmen and Board of Water Commissioners – Ron Parenti asked if we had what we needed from the two Boards to proceed as he did not think we would be getting additional guidance from them. Ron Beck noted Joan Gardner’s closing statement from the meeting which left him feeling like we did not have support. Joan Gardner clarified that she was not aware of any particular aversion to the study but noted the Town is fully focused on other priorities at this time. She was particularly concerned about the issue of the Grace property and its reuse and current zoning. Discussions related to what was heard and taken away from the meeting occurred including support of both Boards for the study, not duplicating efforts of work done by the Water District, and the Town manager’s commitment of staff time for the project. Kim felt that the meeting was more productive than the committee may



have realized. She opined that having the two Boards in the same room discussing water issues was a major achievement.

3. New/Special Business

- A. Next steps on water study without receiving additional input from Board of Selectmen – Given the feelings of the committee expressed earlier in the meeting, it was decided to forge ahead. Four major areas of work were discussed:
- a. Staff Interviews
 - b. Population Estimating
 - c. Wastewater Impacts
 - d. Land Use and Zoning Issues

Committee members had differing opinions on how to proceed with the work and caution was urged regarding taking on too much effort. After further discussion, Ron Beck identified three short term goals to move us forward:

1. Identify what exists for information and avoid duplication of efforts
2. Begin interview process including who we want to have discussions with and what questions we want to ask
3. Create vulnerability mapping based on water resource concerns and population predictions

Specific discussion around utilizing GIS as a tool for our work occurred. Matthew Mostoller mentioned building up a parcel by parcel layer based on wastewater carrying capacity as a helpful model. This could inform the vulnerability mapping highlighted earlier. Terra Friedrichs urged us to target our efforts and possibly start with specific areas. Ron Beck and Barry Rosen offered to try to meet with Kristen Alexander on October 1st to discuss the Town's GIS capabilities.

4. Adjournment

On a motion by Lucy Kirshner and seconded by Barry Rosen, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM by a unanimous vote.