



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Barry Rosen, Matthew Mostoller, Ronald Parenti, Ron Beck

Acting Chairperson: Matthew Mostoller

Clerk: Matthew Mostoller

Others in Attendance: Andrea Becerra (staff liaison to WRAC), Mike Geis, John Mangiaratti (Town Manager), Himaja Nagireddy (Selectboard liaison to WRAC)

1. Opening

Chair Ron Beck opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. He indicated he would be resigning from the committee and Matthew Mostoller took over as Chair for this meeting. Matthew Mostoller asked Ron Beck if he would stay on for the duration of the call to maintain quorum, which he agreed to do.

2. Regular Business

A. Public Remarks/Comments – None.

B. Prepare for meeting with Select Board – Matthew Mostoller reviewed his edits and additions to the slides. Ron Parenti suggested removing a few slides. Matthew Mostoller and Barry Rosen agreed that the past is relevant since discussion of this study has spanned three Select Boards. The committee discussed the needs for establishing a baseline of information and understanding while not biting off more than we can chew within the scope. For the presentation, the issue of roles and responsibilities between the Town and Water District was important and should be moved to the beginning. John Mangiaratti shared his thoughts on a scope with the group:

- a. Provide a report that clearly explains the roles in water resource management to the community.
- b. Preliminarily examine the feasibility of creating a stormwater utility to help fund the annual cost of maintaining stormwater and infrastructure.
- c. Review existing town policies bylaws and procedures and recommend improvements to help ensure a long-term preservation of water resources.
- d. Preliminarily examine the existing wastewater discharge solutions employed in town including private septic, municipal sewer, and private plant operators such as Nagog. Leverage the planned Great Road wastewater study to inform this work. Identify potential collaborations and other solutions that preserve water quality and provide capacity for increased to properly treat more wastewater.



- e. Create a series of maps displaying water resource areas, public supply wells, wastewater discharge areas, stormwater infrastructure, and related items for public education and to inform policy makers.
- f. Develop a draft water-related policy decision making MATRIX to help inform future decisions as it relates to the water quality.

With this information on the table, the committee discussed how these ideas fit into current priorities already under discussion. Andrea Becerra indicated the Town is undertaking other environmental initiatives, proposed staffing, and planning efforts that could be complementary, including the next Master Plan in Fiscal Year 2024. Focus on stormwater management is main priority for the Public Works Director in the coming year. Ron Beck and Matthew Mostoller felt like this was a reasonable outline, especially in that it leverages the \$40,000 with other initiatives. John Mangiaratti was clear that additional funds beyond the initial allocation would need to be sought from Grants, the Water District, or other means. Ron Parenti was concerned this represented a far departure from the prior direction of the committee and failed to recognize the role of population in understanding water needs. Barry Rosen reflected on what constituents want and the outline from the Town Manager would mostly not cover the Town Meeting vote. He also recognized that some controversy exists around population projections and how they are used in Acton can be problematic. John Mangiaratti felt that by focusing on the Great Road wastewater treatment proposal and the stormwater management, this could lead to a warrant article at Town Meeting. Matthew Mostoller reflected on ways that the existing priorities of the committee could relate to the proposal from the Town Manager. Utilizing the proposed Great Road study as a focused review of water resources issues seemed to work well with concepts of targeted focus areas that the committee has discussed in past meetings. Matthew Mostoller emphasized that he is hearing that our best chance of support and moving forward is to adjust expectations.

4. Adjournment

In the end, Ron Beck agreed to remain on the Committee. The next virtual meeting will be held on December 1 at 7PM. Andrea Becerra or John Mangiaratti will be available to host that meeting. On a motion by Barry Rosen and seconded by Matthew Mostoller, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM by a unanimous roll call vote.