



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2022
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Ron Beck, Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, and Mike Geis

Chairperson: Mike Geis

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Allissa Nicol, Evka Blasi, and Kim Kastens

1. Opening

Co-Chair Mike Geis opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. Review of meeting with Corey York –Ron Parenti and Mike Geis described the Zoom meeting with Corey York on 11 March, during which WRAC’s recommendations for changes to the Great Road renovation RFQ were discussed. During that meeting they conveyed the desire of the Committee to include a thorough investigation of the potential impacts of additional commercial development along the Great Road corridor on water demand and water quality. Corey confirmed that the bidders would have the option of bypassing the Add Alternative section written by the Committee, and if that occurs the \$40k allocated for that part of the study would be returned to WRAC. The Town plans to issue the RFQ sometime in the spring, and 4 to 6 weeks would be allowed for the bidders to respond. The bid evaluations would be done by a team made up of 4 to 6 people, at least one of which would be a member of WRAC. The most recent revision to the Add Alternate document has been incorporated into the Town’s RFQ as an independent and separable section.
- B. Discussion of revisions to the Great Road Infrastructure Improvement RFP –Ron Beck and Barry Rosen led a discussion of the Committee’s opinion on the current wording of the Town’s RFQ. There was general agreement that the Add Alternative section has been poorly integrated into the document, and that there is little emphasis on the potable water issues that are the primary concern of the Committee. There were also objections to the heavy emphasis on sewer construction along Great Road and little consideration of alternative wastewater treatment options. Allissa Nicol, who is a member of Green Acton, indicated her support of this position.

To address these concerns the Committee drafted a revision to the first section of the Town’s RFQ to require an investigation of wastewater treatment options. Following Joe Robb’s suggestion, the draft notes the recommendations made in the CWRMP report. The revision also changes the title of WRAC’s portion of the study from ‘Add



Alternative No. 1' to 'Section 2' of the investigation in order to emphasize that it is an integral part of the RFQ.

Following this discussion, Ron Beck moved that the WRAC submit the following recommendations to the Town Manager.

- 1) Remove all references to a separate Add Alternative section and integrate the WRAC study tasks with the objectives enumerated in the original RFQ. In addition, combine the funds allocated for WRAC's study with the money appropriated for the Town's section of the investigation. It is the opinion of the Committee members that a major enhancement of the commercial activity along Great Road could have a significant impact on both water demand and water quality, and that a thorough analysis of potable water issues should be an integral part of the infrastructure investigation.
- 2) The Committee questions the repeated use of the term 'sewer' throughout the document as opposed to a more general term, such as 'waste management solutions'. WRAC believes that a recommendation to construct a sewer along Great Road should be an outcome of the study, not a predetermined requirement. The Committee feels that an unbiased assessment of all options should be made, using the CWRMP study as a starting point.

This motion was seconded by Mike Geis and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

C. Any other new business – None

3. Adjournment

A date for the next meeting will be chosen following the next meeting with Corey York to discuss the RFP. On a motion by Barry Rosen and seconded by Joe Robb, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM by a unanimous roll call vote.