

Water Resources Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 24, 2010
Town Hall Room 126

Members present: Ron Beck (chair), Barry Rosen, Carol Holley (Clerk), Jeff Clymer, Mike Kreuzen, Justin Snair (staff) Lauren Rosenzweig (Selectmen liaison)

The meeting opened at 6:50 p.m.

The minutes of the February 24 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Rosen moved to accept the minutes as submitted, Mr. Beck seconded, and all voted in favor.

The Warrant article was discussed. It was noted that both the Selectmen and Finance Committee (FinCom) voted to support this article.

Mr. Rosen related that he had talked to Kent Sharpe of the FinCom before they voted to approve. Mr. Rosen appeared before the FinCom and the Planning Board. Ms Holley and Mr. Beck described their meeting with the Conservation Commission, whose questions primarily revolved around how the WRAC decided on the by-law language. Ms Holley related her meeting with the Economic Development Committee (EDC), who were primarily concerned with how the by-law would be enforced. Ms Holley noted that she had told the EDC that the group had tried to go as lightly as they could on businesses in both a regulatory and permit fee manner while still fulfilling the requirements as presented by the EPA. The EDC understood the necessity for this by-law.

Mr. Kreuzen observed that the Board of Health has endorsed the by-law. He noted that collaboration is difficult to do well. Mr. Snair noted that Mr. Bartl had reviewed the by-law and commented at length, and the group had gone through his comments and made some changes as a result of them. Town Counsel has reviewed multiple iterations of the by-law. The language has been thoroughly reviewed.

Ms Rosenzweig noted a lot of towns do by-laws in a two-year cycle – one for initial writing, one for review, comment, revision, refining, and educating the public. Mr. Beck observed that the WRAC was initially asked to do two bylaws in one year, but stated they could only do the simpler of them – this was due to EPA pressure. The next bylaw will take longer.

Mr. Beck noted that high on the list of what towns should be doing is education. Mr. Snair has done some really great work on the outfall mapping that is required as a high priority by EPA.

Mr. Rosen stated that he had also talked to the Water District, and a vote to support the by-law is on their Agenda for March 29. Mr. Beck related that he and Ms Rosenzweig will be meeting with the head of the local Chamber of Commerce in the near future. He gets their emails regarding issues, and they are typically good.

Ms Rosenzweig suggested further outreach and education before any enforcement happens. She also noted that how enforcement letters are worded is important – you need to start the process in a friendly manner. Board of Health rules and regulations will be promulgated pursuant to the bylaw and permits issued. Mr. Beck noted that his last draft slide is “next steps”. The rules will specify exactly what an illicit connection is – we can get people permitted early on, but not fine them.

The group discussed what to say at Town Meeting . The pre-town-meeting meeting is scheduled for April first and the slides are due the day before. It was decided the group did not need to meet again before Town Meeting.

Mr. Beck observed that some people are confused as to what this by-law applies to, and he envisions a one-page handout with a decision tree so people can figure out if they are affected or not. Ms Rosenzweig suggested talking to the Moderator and Town Clerk to get advance approval of handouts. Mr. Snair offered to help create a decision tree. Mr. Beck will do the presentation, to last about 12 minutes and involve about 6 slides. One slide will be a map of the MS4 to show how extensive it is; another will discuss what an illicit discharge is, and another list exemptions, then costs and benefits.

Mr. Beck agreed to do the presenting at Town Meeting. He will email the draft slides out and receive comments from group members, who will comment only to him.

A letter to the Beacon to publicize the article was discussed and amended. Mr. Clymer moved to approve the letter for publication, Ms Holley seconded and all voted in favor.

Warrant Article 31 was very briefly discussed, as well as what questions were likely to arise on Town Meeting floor and what the answers would be.

Ms Holley moved to adjourn, Mr. Clymer seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:37 p.m.;

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Holley, Clerk