



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2022
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

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

Chairperson: Mike Geis

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Andrea Becerra (Sustainability Director), Himaja Nagireddy (Select Board Liaison), Kim Kastens, and Terra Friedrichs

1. Opening

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

2. Regular Business

- A. Review Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes from the 5 May, 2022 meeting was made by Matt Mostoller and seconded by Barry Rosen. The minutes were approved without modification by a unanimous roll call vote.
- B. Public Remarks/Comments – None.
- C. Review Status of Great Road RFQ – Ron Parenti provided a status update of the Great Rd. Study bid review process. Responses were received from Woodard & Curran and Wright-Pierce. Both consulting teams provided bids on the Add Alternate section of the RFQ. The bid review team includes the following members:
 - Corey York, Director of Public Works
 - Andrea Becerra, Sustainability Director
 - Austin Cyganiewicz, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
 - QinRui Pang, Town Engineer
 - Ron Parenti, WRAC representative

The first review meeting was held on 17 May, and the next meeting is scheduled for 24 May. The review process will likely be completed within 3 weeks, at which point the scoring results will be given to the Town Manager. The Town Manager will then negotiate with the winning contractor to establish the project cost.

Terra Friedrichs asked if the public would have an opportunity to comment on the bid evaluation process. Parenti responded that no information about the bids would be made public until after the winning contractor has been selected, but that as the WRAC representative on the evaluation team it would be his responsibility to advocate for the objectives supported by the WRAC membership.



- D. Suggestions for Future WRAC Committee Tasks – The Committee revisited the discussion initiated at the last meeting regarding tasks that the WRAC might undertake following the completion of the Great Rd. study.

Barry Rosen noted that the Town's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit will need to be renewed in the near future, and that the renewal may require the Town to perform a more detailed mapping of its stormwater discharge network. The responsibility for this task probably lies with the Health Department, and the Committee discussed the possibility of working with that department to develop a stormwater utility or assist in the creation of a new Town bylaw. Matt Mostoller commented that the Acton Water District is interested in efforts to impose better stormwater management since it is important for maintaining water quality. Andrea Becerra has been involved in prior discussions on this topic and offered to assist the Committee if it wishes to help the Town with this task.

Barry Rosen reminded the group that Ron Beck (who could not attend this meeting) has a strong interest in the possibility of establishing wastewater districts to manage the septic systems that are used by about 85% of Acton's residents. This would help ensure that these systems are properly maintained, and perhaps provide a means to offer financial assistance to homeowners who need to replace their systems. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting, and Ron Beck will be asked to present a summary of his thoughts on this subject.

Joe Robb stated that he is interested generating a concise description of the Water District's supply capabilities under nominal and stressing conditions. The need for such a document has been discussed by the WRAC on multiple occasions, and it is the opinion of the Committee that both the public and Town leadership would benefit from a better understanding of the challenges that the Water District is currently facing. Matt Mostoller noted that the Committee should be mindful of the intended audience for the report when making decisions about the length of the document and the level of detail to be included. Ron Parenti and Barry Rosen indicated their interest in working with Robb on this project.

- E. Any other new business – None.

3. **Adjournment**

The Committee agreed to hold its next virtual meeting on 14 June at 7PM. Following a motion by Matt Mostoller that was seconded by Mike Geis, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous roll call vote at 8:40 PM.