



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2023
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

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

Chairperson: Mike Geis

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Himaja Nagireddy (Select Board Liaison), Kim Kastens, Alisa Nicol, and Terra Friedrichs.

1. Opening

WRAC chair Mike Geis opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. Review Minutes – The draft minutes from 19 January were discussed; a motion to approve the minutes was made by Ron Parenti and seconded by Mike Geis. Aye votes were obtained from Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, and Mike Geis. Matt Mostoller and Joe Robb abstained, as they were not present at the 19 January meeting.
- B. Overview of the Wright-Pierce Progress Memorandum – Ron Parenti reviewed the content of a memorandum issued by Wright-Pierce on 8 February regarding their progress on the Great Road wastewater study. Wright-Pierce computed the average and peak-day wastewater outputs for the Great Road corridor, and investigated the feasibility of exploiting the excess capacity of existing local treatment plants, suitable locations for one or more new local treatment plants, and pathways to transmit wastewater from the corridor to the Adams Street facility. The first of these options was quickly eliminated from consideration as the excess capacity of the existing plants was found to be insufficient. Five locations were identified as being possible sites for a new treatment facility, and two options for sewer line routes to the Adams Street plant were specified. No cost estimates or construction timelines were included in the report. Committee members raised questions regarding the current excess capacity at the Adams Street plant and if the addition of the flow from Great Road would necessitate an expansion of the leaching field. Members were also unclear as to the amount of output that feeds directly into the Assabet River as opposed to the aquifer that supplies the Assabet wells. On the topic of the proposed sewer line routes, it was noted that a pipeline along Main Street would require most home owners along that route to use sewage grinder pumps to transfer sewage from the home into the pressurized pipe. Mike Geis noted that these systems, which must be maintained by the homeowner, have a relatively short operational life and become non-functional during power outages.



- C. Draft Report from the Zoning Subcommittee—Barry Rosen described the latest draft that he and Joe Robb have written, which included technical input provided by Matt Mostoller. The subcommittee has prepared two versions of the report, the first of which is 2 pages in length and is primarily intended for a non-technical audience and a 3-page version that is more detailed and intended to be delivered to Town board members. Both versions include a graphic that describes the manner in which aquifers are recharged by rain water and subsequently extracted from the aquifer by the District’s wells, and a second graphic that illustrates the placement of the wells in Acton and the boundaries of the well protection zones. Parenti argued the longer version provided more information about the zoning issue and included language that was not overly technical, so the shorter version might be unnecessary. Robb noted that the shorter version included a ‘call-to-action’ section that outlined steps that should be taken to further protect the Town’s water supply, and he recommended that this section be appended to the longer version of the report. Alisa Nicol supported the use of the longer version with the addition of the call-to-action section, and also suggested that the document be mailed to all Acton residents. This suggestion was supported by several Committee members and attendees, but it was noted that the WRAC would need to request funding from the Town to print and mail the report. Nicol also suggested that the WRAC should present the report at meetings of the Select Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals. The authors of the report promised to review these comments and suggestions, and a revised document will be sent to Committee members and meeting attendees prior to the next WRAC meeting.
- D. WRAC Contribution to the Town’s Annual Report -- The WRAC contribution to the Town’s annual report was discussed, and a change was made to reflect the fact that the Committee’s charge had been updated by the Select Board on 6 December 2021. A motion to approve the amended report was made by Mike Geis and seconded by Ron Parenti. Committee members Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, and Mike Geis voted aye; Matt Mostoller indicated that he needed to review the document more carefully and abstained.
- E. Any Other New Business -- None.

3. **Adjournment**

Committee members agreed to hold the next meeting on 21 March 2023 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Matt Mostoller and seconded by Mike Geis. Adjournment was approved at 8:35 pm by a unanimous roll call vote of the WRAC members.