



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2023
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

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

Chairperson: Joe Robb

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: None

1. Opening

WRAC chair Joe Robb opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – None
- B. Review Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes for 27 June was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Mike Geis. The minutes were subsequently approved by a roll call vote in which Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Mike Geis, and Joe Robb voted aye.
- C. WRAC Zoning Document Update – Barry Rosen explained that the document is currently on hold, since he and Joe Robb are waiting for a response from the Town Manager concerning a request for assistance from Town staff to redraw the zoning map that will be included in the report. It was also noted that the latest revision is four pages long, and does not have room for a mail label. Rosen will make a second request for staff assistance, and once the revised map has been generated the document will be reformatted to allow space for a mailing label. The WRAC still needs to schedule a meeting with the Select Board to request funding and arrange for printing and mailing, so the current target date for distribution is late September.
- D. Strategy for Reviewing Great Road Study Results -- Joe Robb reviewed the study goals presented to the Select Board by the WRAC in 2021 to provide a context for reviewing the findings of the current Great Road study. He reminded the Committee that WRAC had originally attempted to perform a town-wide investigation of potable water issues, and WRAC members had hoped that the Great Road study would serve as a template for a more expansive future study. Barry Rosen noted that it has become much more difficult recently to find consulting firms that have time to perform studies of this type since most of the qualified firms are now heavily engaged in PFAS-related activities. Rosen also informed the Committee that CDM Smith will soon complete a feasibility evaluation for connecting Acton and other MetroWest towns to the MWRA, and he reviewed some of the details of discussions that have occurred at recent Water District meetings regarding this question. Rosen recommended that WRAC perform a detailed review of both the Great Road study and CDM Smith's MWRA analysis. Parenti noted that Wright-Pierce



has promised to include WRAC in the final review process, and that the draft report is expected to be issued in August.

- E. Any Other New Business -- Parenti revisited a discussion initiated by Kim Kastens at last month's meeting regarding an effort to start a local newspaper that would publish the type of information that used to be reported in the Beacon. Kastens is a member of an ad hoc committee that is working on this project, but presently she and others have been publishing short articles in the Action Unlimited. Parenti suggested that a summary of the CDM Smith report on the feasibility of connecting to MWRA might be an interesting topic for a future article. Barry Rosen cautioned that the issues involved are extremely complicated, which would be difficult to cover in a brief report intended for a general audience. He recommended that the Committee postpone this discussion until the CDM Smith report has been issued and reviewed.

3. Adjournment

Committee members agreed to hold the next meeting on 24 August 2023 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Mike Geis. Adjournment was approved at 8:35 pm by a unanimous roll call vote of the four members in attendance.