

Minutes from February 15, 2012 WRAC Meeting

Attending this meeting were the following: Ron Beck, Barry Rosen, Jeff Clymer, Helen Probst, Matt Mostoller and Janet Adachi. Ron Beck opened the meeting at 6:55 PM.

The minutes for the meeting of January 19 were not ready for review.

The first main area of discussion was how the handbook would be incorporated into the bylaw. The two main approaches that were discussed were to:

1. Reference the Massachusetts handbook and define the modifications and exceptions that would apply in the bylaw
2. Create an Acton specific handbook which would include, exclude and modify existing sections of the Massachusetts handbook and provide a stand-alone version for Acton.

There were other variations of these two general approaches discussed. No decision was made as to the final approach. This discussion also focused on what happened when the handbook changed and whether we could change elements in how we apply the handbook if we defined all of the exceptions and modifications in a separate handbook or an addendum to the handbook. The question was raised as to whether the handbook would then need to go to Town Meeting for approval.

After discussing how to address the Massachusetts handbook, we reviewed the consolidated version of the bylaw that Helen had prepared. The two topics that we spent the remaining portion of the meeting discussing were the storm severity that we would use to evaluate the measures that must be within established standards and maintenance.

Bylaw Discussion

We noted that the Massachusetts handbook uses a 2 year storm for velocity measures and felt that this was not sufficient. The following further observations were made:

- Movement to a 100-year storm may be too onerous
- Short frequency storms are used for as typical measures
- Need to get view of those with experience in these matters of the relative pluses and minuses of 10 year versus 25 year or 50 year storms as the basis for evaluating whether standards are met
- Need to establish standards

- May have multiple standards - for recharge and for flooding

The discussion then moved to maintenance with the following observations about the permitting process:

- Must include maintenance plans
- Must have requirements to submit maintenance records
- Inspection of installations (Department of Health – Inspects AI systems)
- Permitting system may help facilitate the tracking of these requirements
- Could contract with a firm to chase maintenance, they will have revenue
- Jointly-owned BMP

Jeff Clymer indicated that he would meet with Roland Bartl to discuss integrating this bylaw into the zoning and subdivision requirements. Jeff also indicated that he would invite Kim Montella to next meeting to get perspectives of someone with considerable experience with storm-water issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.