

TOWN OF ACTON
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES OF JANUARY 10, 2018

Documents: Any documents utilized during this meeting are either included in these minutes, available on the web and/or can be examined at the Town offices during regular business hours.

Present: Robert Sekuler, Ron Beck, Barry Rosen, Joan Gardner (BOS Liaison). Guests: Lucy Kirshner, Mary Lyn Miller, Kim Kastens, Terra Friedrichs.

Note Taker(s): Barry Rosen

Chairperson: Ron Beck

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on January 10, 2018 at 7:05 PM ET.

New Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Sekuler, seconded by Mr. Rosen, the minutes of October 25, 2017 as amended, were approved by a unanimous vote.
2. Date/Time of Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WRAC will be held on February 21, 2018 (Wednesday) at the headquarters building of the Water Supply District of Acton beginning at 7:00 PM ET.
3. Additional Meeting: As detailed later in these notes there will be a subcommittee meeting of the WRAC held on February 7, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Water Supply District of Acton's headquarters building.
4. Public Education Slides: The committee reviewed a first draft of slides that could be used for public education about water in Acton. The current material was drawn from existing sources including earlier presentations.
5. Town Meeting, Article 28: Mr. Sekuler communicated a chat that he had with Representative Atkins over the weekend. Essentially, Senator Eldridge and Representatives Atkins have been waiting to hear from the Town of Acton regarding the unanimous passage of Article 28 at the April 2017 Town Meeting.
 - 5.1. Mr. Sekuler asked the committee if it would be appropriate for the WRAC to contact the Acton BOS to ask if they would follow-up on the non-binding warrant article which requests that the legislature affirm Acton's right to draw water from Nagog Pond, as defined in Section 10, Chapter 201 of the Acts of 1884.
 - 5.2. Mr. Rosen was not sure whether this was within the purview of the WRAC and its latest mission statement. However, after discussion with others, he considered that Nagog Pond was a possible water supply at some future time and therefore was within our charter to recommend an action to the Board of Selectmen.
 - 5.3. On a motion by Mr. Sekuler, seconded by Mr. Beck, the committee asked the chairperson to write a letter (email) to the Board of Selectmen asking them to contact our local state legislators requesting that they seek clarification on the Town of Acton's rights to Nagog Pond (water use). The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Membership: Ms. Kirshner expressed her continued interest to become a member of WRAC. She explained that she had filled-out the paperwork provided to her by the VCC and was looking forward to joining. The chair asked Ms. Gardner if she could provide this information to the BOS in an effort to have Ms. Kirshner become the fifth member of the committee as soon as possible.
7. Town Report: On a motion by Mr. Sekuler, seconded by Mr. Rosen, the committee asked the chairperson to provide the requested Town Report information for use in the Acton Annual Report directly to Lisa Tomyl. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

8. Scope of Water Study:

8.1. Mr. Beck reviewed and summarized what had been discussed to date on the scope of the proposed water study for the attendees present.

8.1.1. Ms. Miller asked about water need projections and why there appear to be differences in the amount of water needed between various projections. Mr. Beck explained how projections can be done and that different assumptions can cause projections to differ widely.

8.1.2. Ms. Kastens stated in her discussions with the USGS, she was told the “area” of Acton was too small of an area for the USGS to assist in our water study. It would take a much larger area for them to be directly involved. However, Acton would be free to utilize their computer model which is perfectly applicable to the study. They would also offer us help and advice in using the model.

8.2. Mr. Beck briefly talked about the CWRMP which Acton had done a number of years ago (by consulting firm Woodward & Curran) and some of its major conclusions – some of which are still applicable.

9. Water Study Approval:

9.1. The sense of the committee is that it believes that it is ready to speak with the BOS to obtain feedback on the scope of the study and to ask for approval to begin.

9.2. Mr. Rosen proposed that a small “slide deck” be prepared to present to the Board at a future selectmen’s meeting. He feels that the topics covered should be at the “10,000 foot level” and not go into great detail about each subject area. Provide a brief topic presentation and allow the Board to ask questions.

9.3. Ms. Gardner was asked if she would obtain a date/time that the WRAC could speak with the Board.

9.4. Mr. Beck suggested that a WRAC subcommittee finalize the topics and prepare the slide presentation at a separate meeting. Membership in the subcommittee would be open to all WRAC members that wished to participate.

9.5. The committee set the date for the first meeting on February 7, 2018 beginning at 7:00 PM at the Water Supply District of Acton, headquarters building.

Adjournment:

On a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mr. Rosen and seconded by Mr. Sekuler, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM by a unanimous vote.