

West Acton Sewer Action Advisory Committee
July 12, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Acton Town Hall, Room 9

Meeting Minutes

Present: Committee members Janet Adachi, Chairman; Joanne Bissetta, Peter Henry, Garry McCarthy, Samuel Rice, David Wellinghoff; Town Engineer Paul Campbell; Joseph Shea, Senior V.P. and Jack Troidl, Project Manager, Woodard & Curran.

Absent: Committee members Ann Chang, J.D. Head, Bharat Shah.

Chairman called meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

1. Approval of 5/10/2018 Minutes – postponed.
2. Updates (if any) about previous meeting topics – Town Engineer Paul Campbell reviews 3 recent quotes for new septic systems installed in Acton in the Spencer Road area. Quotes ranged from \$37,400 to \$46,150 for specialized treatment. The committee discussed and thought \$22,000-\$38,000 was an approximate range to use for construction only of a new septic system.
3. Sewer District Finance – Town Engineer Paul Campbell reviews presentation titled “Acton Sewers West Acton Expansion Financial Discussion”. Highlights include a total cost estimate of \$12-14 million with \$3-5 million general benefit and \$9-10 million residential / commercial specific benefit. The SBU range is thought to be 300-350 SBU for an estimated betterment of \$28,000-42,000 (1 SF home = 1 SBU).

Existing sewer system was funded by a low interest loan from the state revolving fund. Non-eligible costs (design, archaeology) were covered by other municipal borrowing. West Acton capital costs could be funded by the SRF, municipal borrowing, existing treatment plant capacity purchase (although likely not eligible). There are multiple options for managing cash flow including estimated betterments, SRF, general fund, short-term borrowing, other. Paul reviews how Fort Pond betterments and abatements are collected and handled respectively as well as the enterprise privilege fees. The town finance department handles the operating side (billing, average water use).

4. Next Steps – School is in the process of hiring a design engineer by mid-August. Question of connecting the school into the West Acton system and where a pump station might be located. Additional questions on the school schedule as the school’s involvement remains a most critical factor. Public feedback on the cost of a system weighed against a recently installed septic system. Could Acton lease treatment capacity (if needed) from Maynard?
5. Proposed topics for future agendas – No discussion.

6. Public comments – Residents in attendance weigh in with feedback and questions, including suggestion of accommodation for resident who has just installed new septic system and faces possibility additional cost of sewer betterment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Next meetings: Committee members would like to see map with routes on which 26K gpd based. Agreement on second Thursday of every month as regular meeting day.

- David Wellinghoff, clerk for meeting