

TOWN OF ACTON

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTES OF OCTOBER 24, 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: Ron Beck, Lucy Kirshner, Barry Rosen, Matthew Mostoller, Joan Gardner (BOS Liaison).
Guests: Kim Kastens, Terra Friedrichs.

Note Taker(s): Barry Rosen

Chairperson: Ron Beck

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 7:05 PM ET.

Old Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Kirshner which was seconded by Mr. Mostoller, the WRAC minutes of September 26, 2018 were approved by a unanimous vote.
2. Citizens' Comments: Ms. Kastens reminded everyone that the 1,4 dioxane seminar was going to be held tomorrow night (Thursday, October 25, 2018) at the Public Safety Building in Acton.
3. Analysis/Discussion of Water Resources Workshop: The committee continued its discussion and initial analysis of the data that was obtained during the workshop held on September 22, 2018. Some of the points made during this discussion (paraphrased and/or summarized) were:
 - 3.1. Ms. Kirshner recalled some of the remarks that were made by Sarah Bursky, the meeting facilitator. She also recapped a suggestion made by Mr. Rosen that “buckets” would be helpful to classify the questions raised by the workshop’s participants.
 - 3.2. Mr. Beck:
 - 3.2.1. Created a PowerPoint® presentation that presented all of the remarks from the workshop which were captured. He also created a spreadsheet in which he did an initial classification of the remarks. Mr. Beck also mentioned that Mr. Sekuler had suggested and begun this spreadsheet. He remarked that he now understood the difficulty in doing this.
 - 3.2.2. Recounted some of Katie’s remarks during the workshop which was it was important to list what everyone needs to do—not just the WRAC.
 - 3.2.3. Some questions that need to be kept in mind since some information may already exist:
 - 3.2.3.1. What data or information do we need?
 - 3.2.3.2. What information may already exist? It was noted that while the information may exist, it may be difficult to find it as some of it may have been archived and forgotten.
 - 3.2.3.3. What information/data do we need to create, research, measure, etc.?

- 3.3. Ms. Kastens felt that it was important for the town to *believe* what they are told. Perhaps a way for this to happen would be to create a “working group” consisting of a diverse group of people, including town staff, to construct the information. The group would then present it to the Board and/or staff. She also added that we should not confine ourselves to the information that we would get from a consultant.
- 3.4. The group then went into detail examining the spreadsheet (which displayed on the large monitor) and the current “buckets” or classifications of each of the items.
- 3.5. We saw that “enforcement” appeared a number of times throughout and could likely also be applied to a number of additional questions listed. The committee believes that enforcement is one of the on-going issues particularly around water. As Mr. Mostoller and Mr. Rosen pointed out, the AWD is required to do certain things which are in its control and to enforce a number of things which are not directly in its control. The District has very little enforcement ability. For example, the DEP requires the AWD to protect water recharge zones. The District must ask the town to do this as the town has the power of zoning and zoning enforcement.
- 3.6. It was noted that “public education” appears as an appropriate question classification quite often which indicates to us that education is an on-going need. Ms. Kastens reminded the group of her opinion that the Town needs to own education of the public. Education is not a task for an all-volunteer group. That is why we have professionals doing education. The committee members seemed to resonate with that comment.
- 3.7. The sense of the committee was that once the raw data had been “distilled,” it would be a good idea to send it to all workshop participants.

4. **“Distilling/Digesting” the data:** After some discussion, the committee felt that to make quicker progress, we should split the work into working teams (no team would constitute a quorum). Each team would go through the spreadsheet and extract each “question” appropriate for its “bucket” or grouping. The goal would be for each team to be able to summarize in a paragraph:
 - 4.1. What were the people saying about that topic?
 - 4.2. What needs to be done?
 - 4.3. What we need to find out?
 - 4.4. What do we need to find out from a study point of view?
 - 4.5. What does the Town need to do?
 - 4.6. What does the Acton Water District need to do?
 - 4.7. How would we need to phrase our findings to the Board of Selectmen?
5. **Working Teams and Topics:**
 - 5.1. Science/Data: Mr. Mostoller, Mr. Rosen
 - 5.2. Policy/Permitting/Enforcement: Mr. Beck, Ms. Kastens
 - 5.3. Forecasting/Planning: Mr. Sekuler, Mr. Beck
 - 5.4. Education: Ms. Gardner, Ms. Kirshner
6. ***Action Item:*** *The above teams will decide on when/where to meet. They will report back to the WRAC at its next scheduled meeting date (see below).* The topics of cost and financial impact will be held for discussion at a later date. The consensus was that “shared vision” should be discussed as a group.

New Business:

7. Date/Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the WRAC will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at the headquarters building of the Acton Water District, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA beginning at 7:00 PM.
8. No Other New Business was discussed at this meeting. The VCC discussion was held over to the next meeting of the WRAC.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Rosen, seconded by Mr. Beck, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:10 PM.