



## WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2021

6:00pm – 8:00pm

\*VIRTUAL MEETING\*

**Members Present:** Ron Beck, Barry Rosen, Ronald Parenti, Matthew Mostoller – present  
Ms. Lucy Kirshner – present

**Visitors:** Himaja Nagireddy, Kim Kastens, Lucy Kirshner, Terra Friedrichs

### **1. Opening**

Mr. Beck called the meeting to order at 6:15PM via a virtual meeting with no Board Members in physical attendance are using the via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform. Mr. Beck reported The Town of Acton in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall and Memorial Library are closed to the public.

Mr. Beck called roll attendance:

Mr. Ron Beck- present

Mr. Barry Rosen- present

Mr. Ronald Parenti- present

Mr. Matthew Mostoller – present

Ms. Lucy Kirshner- present

Mr. Mostoller, Ms. Becerra, Mr. Snyder-Grant introduced himself to the WRAC committee.  
Ms. Kim Kastens, Ms. Terra Friedrichs

### **2. Regular Business**

#### A. Review of meeting minutes from February 25, 2020

-Mr. Beck shared his screen to scroll through the minutes of February 25, 2020, and summarized the meeting minutes. The draft of February 5, 2020 minutes were not available for Ron Beck. Mr. Parenti noted the misspelling of the word “more.”

- Ms. Kirshner made a motion to accept the meetings & Mr. Rosen seconded the motion.
- Mr. Barry – aye,
- Ms. Kirshner – aye
- Matt – aye, Ron- aye

#### 1. Citizens' Comments/Remarks



Ms. Kastens noted the difficulty in finding the document in DocuShare and encouraged that the WRAC use the DocuShare moving forward. Ms. Becerra noted that the document was found in meeting minutes and that she would create a new folder titled "2021 Documents."

2. Review scope and goals of WRAC

- Mr. Beck explains the history of the WRAC. The State allowed the Town to build a sewage treatment plant called the CWRMP? Done in 2000-2002. This was 20 years ago. The State agreed to approve that under the condition of developing that study. Mr. Beck joined committee when it was first formed.
- Mr. Rosen suggests mapping out what we need to do and whether it works with what was approved by Select Board some time ago. Mr. Rosen suggests defining what should we be doing it and why should we be doing it.
- Ms. Becerra shared screen showing WRAC charge. Mr. Parenti is interested in pursuing population growth and understanding the impact on water. The growth in Acton vs. Littleton and other communities the population is growing quickly. Concerned that as the population grows the Water District may have issues in meeting the demand. Concern around PFAS.
- Mr. Beck notes that this issue is referenced in bullet #4.
- Ms. Kirshner agrees on focusing on a project identified in bullet #4. Ms. Kirshner is interested in looking at long-term view. Ms. Kirshner notes the value of having both the Town of Acton and the AWD working together.
- Mr. Beck agrees that in terms of what WRAC does, the committee needs to work on a project that has a beginning, middle and an outcome. At the same time, we know that we can't consider water supply, without considering wastewater treatment. Mr. Beck noted that every time a sewer activity gets proposed, a separate committee gets formed. Mr. Beck suggests that there be one committee that has the authority for looking at water overall or not. Mr. Beck noted the issue of not being able to comment on the Nagog project.
- Mr. Beck notes that it's important to set up a charter and then have the Select Board confirm it
- Ms. Friedrichs suggests including development in the WRAC charter:  
<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-12748/1f762cv7.pdf>
- Mr. Snyder-Grant noted that the Select Board is willing to support this work.

3. Continue Work on Advancing the Water Study

- Ms. Kastens feels that there is a strong mandate for the water study given that there is a budget for the study and was supported by the Select Board.
- Mr. Beck presented to the Select Board and never got a reply verbally or written.
- Mr. Beck notes that the water study is something that they want to work on: population and water demand
- Mr. Parenti notes that many decades ago Concord
- Mr. Mostoller there needs to be recognition about the type of community we want to be (the more we pave our town, the less water we recharge); how can the Town work



more in concern with the District to ensure our ability to supply water. If we don't change what we're doing, we will have to join a regional water supply, which have similar issues as Acton.

- Ms. Friedrichs hopes that we find ways to limit the growth to remain sustainable within own borders.
- Mr. Beck notes that the Town can't decide that the Town of Acton is a no-growth Town.
- Mr. Parenti notes that we can offer the Town options.
- Mr. Mostoller notes that one thing he recalls is that there doesn't seem to be a shared water vision of Acton (like it is in Concord) and until the community can coalesce around a shared vision for the community as a whole.
- Mr. Beck comments that there are competing interests and therefore competing visions. Concludes that this is something that the water study could help with. For the Town of Acton to be able to that it needs to have access to the AWD information. If we lay out a good study then it might help frame development in the Town.
- Ms. Kastens notes that if you want to get a sense of the growth side you can join the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Kastens notes that a shared vision doesn't necessarily hold across all people. The Concord commitment to be a no-growth Town has not necessarily been the case in Concord.
- Ms. Friedrichs notes that it's not possible for new growth to achieve affordability unless it's highly subsidized, and so we should not rely on growth to achieve affordability
- Mr. Rosen notes that it's the Town of Acton that has to make most of these decisions. If the Town says they're going to build 10 new affordable housing units and there happens to be a water line on that street, the AWD will have to hook up those 10 buildings and there's very little choice. It's virtually impossible for AWD to prove hardship.
- Ms. Becerra can find out if issue identified in bullet #2 is coming up.
- Mr. Beck notes that bullet #2 makes sense and bullet #5 refers to the water supply study. Ms. Becerra to look into bullet #4 to find out if money is being used to monitor water supply. Ms. Kirshner noted that the Board of Health is starting to address this. Ms. Becerra to ask Board of Health Director about water monitoring system.
- Powerpoint shared by Mr. Beck summarizes the main points of the water study which include:
  - o Population and water demand projections
    - What drives population growth in Acton
    - Growth options and implications related to water related to water resources
      - (assemble information to assist town in thinking about shared vision for water and growth)
    - Partially gathered information from GIS
  - o Drinking water source options
    - Complement efforts of AWD
  - o Wastewater strategy



- Understanding of section of Town under individual waste treatment
- Land use protection, especially zone 1, 2 and 3 (recharge)
  - How does this relate to impervious surfaces
- Monitor and reporting

- Ms. Kastens shared report on growth in Acton:  
[https://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/centers/rappaport/files/vonhoffman\\_final.pdf](https://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/centers/rappaport/files/vonhoffman_final.pdf)

- Mr. Beck suggests meeting twice per month and stick to no more than an hour and a half
- Mr. Mostoller suggests sticking to an hour and using blocks in between to search answers.
- Next meeting set for Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7-8pm.
- If we're going to propose a consultant, what should the proposal include.

4. Review Town Staff Support for WRAC

- Ms. Becerra is asked to give staff support.
- Mr. Beck describes history of support from Board of Health. It meant that one person would attend meeting from Board of Health. Individual from Board of Health was the conduit to the Town. At some point the finance committee might need to be incorporated.
- Mr. Rosen noted permitting issues and concluded that we needed a permit system. Met with member of Health Department to create a system (spreadsheet and model). Now the Town charges via land use or Health Department. Mr. Beck concludes that one of the key learnings is that there is a lot of data that exists and a lot of the effort involves finding the data. A lot of what we need to do is avoid redoing what already exists.
- Ms. Becerra agrees to be a staff support.

5. Review Membership of WRAC

- Mr. Beck notes that we need recruits and Ms. Kirshner notes that she has a list of people that could join.
- Mr. Mostoller notes that we could discuss the reorganization of chair, vice chair, etc.
- Mr. Beck will communicate to Mr. Snyder-Grant that need to look for at least three people.

## **CLOSING**

Mr. Mostoller moves to close the meeting, Mr. Rosen seconds

Mr. Kirshner- Aye

Mr. Rosen – Ayer

Mr. Beck - Aye