



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2021
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Barry Rosen, Matthew Mostoller, Ronald Parenti, Ron Beck, Joe Robb (associate), and Mike Geis (associate)

Chairperson: Ron Beck

Clerk: Matthew Mostoller

Others in Attendance: Andrea Becerra (staff liaison to WRAC), Kim Kastens, John Mangiaratti (Town Manager), Himaja Nagireddy (Selectboard liaison to WRAC)

1. Opening

Chair Ron Beck opened the meeting at 7:03 PM after confirming he is not ready to resign.

2. Regular Business

- A. Discussion of Membership and Officers for 2022 – With Ron Beck agreeing to remain on the committee, the discussion turned to promoting our recently appointed Associates to Full members of the committee. Both Mike Geis and Joe Robb are willing to contribute regardless of being Full or Associate members. Barry Rosen suggested that the number of Full members could be increased at the Select Board's discretion as this is an advisory committee. Ron Beck moved and Ron Parenti seconded that both Associate members be promoted to Full and asked Himaja Nagireddy to put this vote before the Select Board on December 20th. Ron Beck, Ron Parenti, and Barry Rosen voted aye, and Matthew Mostoller voted nay, by a roll call vote. He was concerned with changing the quorum requirements as we have been challenged at times to have full participation by all committee members.
- B. Public Remarks/Comments – None.
- C. Review Minutes – No minutes were available for review at this meeting.
- D. Prepare for meeting with Select Board – Ron Parenti opened with his concern about the negative response received from the Chair of the Select Board. It is clear that things need to be revamped and we should not keep working on the study without support from Town leadership. Barry Rosen was not in favor of doing a presentation on December 20th and that a workshop might be a better avenue for discussing the study. Ron Beck incorporated John Mangiaratti's feedback from the last meeting into the slides and agreed a workshop might help to better vet the differing approaches to the study. Matthew Mostoller reminded the committee we have only heard from one Select Board member and the other four may be more supportive of our proposal and that going before them on December 20th would get the dialogue started. John Mangiaratti wants to



support the committee in bringing forward an attainable project. Himaja Nagireddy agrees that the current study is beyond our current means and that coming on December 20th should still happen. Joe Robb provided an order of magnitude cost estimate (\$250,000) and asked if we could solicit feedback from known firms capable of this type of study. Matthew Mostoller felt, and Ron Beck agreed, the presentation would allow the Select Board to view the entire scope and determine the most popular/relevant/feasible components. Barry Rosen is concerned the time allotment is not adequate and that having a less formal and more focused discussion may be more fruitful. Himaja Nagireddy suggested a small meeting between staff, herself, and 2 representatives from the committee to identify achievable funding and implementable work. John Mangiaratti was clear that an hour would not be realistic for the meeting as his budget presentation did not even garner that allotment of time. He indicated no additional funding was available and that the focus of the study needs to be on things with momentum. Asking for more money before we have expended any of the current allocation was viewed as unacceptable. John Mangiaratti emphasized focusing on the points he made at the previous meeting. Matthew Mostoller quickly went through the scope John Mangiaratti developed and how the allotted \$40,000 may be adequate using a combination of staff, volunteer, and consulting hours. Ron Parenti reiterated the departure from the original scope and Mike Geiss felt like this could be starting point for future phases of work, possibly incorporating the next Town master plan to focus on population issues. The feedback from the Selectboard Chair continues to reflect poor understanding of the interconnection between water resource issues. Matthew Mostoller emphasized the role of ground water protection for the viability of a sustainable water supply. John Mangiaratti does not agree with the assessment of understanding and discussed the proposed Great Road sewer study. He indicated little support for money being used on population projections when real operational issues can be addressed such as limitations at commercial properties on Great Road. Hearing this, Matthew Mostoller suggested to the committee that maybe piggy backing on the Great Road study would afford us an opportunity to evaluate this area as a case study for incorporating components of interconnected concerns such as protecting groundwater, impacts of increasing wastewater capacity on water demand, and identifying other land use improvements. John Mangiaratti indicated the scope for the Great Road study was not final and Matthew Mostoller suggested an engineering firm with planning experience might be a good fit. Ron Beck and Ron Parenti will meet with Himaja Nagireddy and finalize the slides for John Mangiaratti and Andrea Becerra to review. Matthew Mostoller and Barry Rosen agree in principle with this direction and feel that John Mangiaratti participating would help move things forward.

4. Adjournment

The next virtual meeting will be held on December 9 at 7PM. On a motion by Barry Rosen and seconded by Ron Beck, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM by a unanimous roll call vote.