



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2025
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Mike Geis, Joe Robb, and Dave Boccuti

Chairperson: Joe Robb

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Alissa Nicol (Select Board Liaison) and Kim Kastens

1. Opening

WRAC chair Joe Robb opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – None
- B. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 16 January 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 16 January 2025 was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Mike Geis. The Committee members present, Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, and Mike Geis, all voted to approve the minutes.
- C. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 6 February 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 6 February 2025 was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Mike Geis. The Committee members present, Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, and Mike Geis, all voted to approve the minutes.
- D. Review and Approve WRAC Contribution to the Town Annual Report – A motion to approve WRAC's 2024 annual report was made by Ron Parenti and seconded by Barry Rosen. The Committee members present, Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, and Mike Geis, all voted to approve the report. Parenti indicated that the approved document would be sent to the Town Report working group the following day.
- E. Review of Draft Outreach Poster Board Concepts – This discussion began with a review of information collected by Mike Geis about methods to inform the public about the planned stormwater outreach event. Information obtained from Lauren West about mailings for prior events held by the Town indicated that the cost of printing and mailing notifications to residents would be of the order of \$3,000. Free announcement alternatives include a notice inserted in the next tax bill, Action Unlimited, the Acton Exchange, the Municipal Monthly, the Town's News Flash, and other social media outlets. Members also suggested handouts at Town Meeting, postings in local stores, a notice in the Senior Newsletter, an electronic sign at the transfer station, and A-frames signs in front of Town Hall. Robb expressed his opposition to the use of a mass mailing due to the amount of paper that would be generated, and indicated that he favored the use of multiple low-cost announcement options. Following discussion of Robb's suggestion,



Committee members decided against the use of a mass mailing. Geis then volunteered to contact Town staff about the use of News Flash, the Municipal Monthly, and a notice in the next tax bill. Parenti indicated that he would contact the DPW about the use of an electronic sign at the DPW, A-frame signs, and the possibility of adding an outreach event announcement to the Town's stormwater website.

Parenti initiated the poster board discussion by showing a chart that lists three revenue and management options: Status Quo that would not increase spending, Priority Capital Improvements that would increase spending for essential repairs, and Stormwater Utility that would make significant changes in annual spending and stormwater management. While this representation is a gross simplification of the available options available to the Town, it was argued that the chart provided a simple way to assess the public's willingness to accept an increase in taxes or fees to support infrastructure upgrades. This feedback approach was discussed at length, and several Committee members argued that the chart failed to capture the complicated interactions between the funding mechanisms, the cost to residents, and the proposed management approaches. Parenti agreed to revise the poster board, and generate separate posters to describe the revenue approach options and the infrastructure management options. Rosen indicated that he will probably need to include additional material in Section 5 of the feasibility study report to clearly explain and differentiate the Town's stormwater funding options.

- F. Discuss Schedule for Outreach Event Dry Run and Meeting – Alissa Nicol relayed David Martin's suggestion that the outreach event should be held after Town Meeting but before the beginning of school vacation. Martin also suggested that a dry run of the outreach presentation be given to the Town Finance Committee. The Finance Committee usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, and it was decided that the WRAC should attempt to schedule a meeting on April 8 or 29. Mike Geis indicated that he would discuss the date of the dry run with the committee chair, Jason Cole. There are several open dates for Room 204 in Town Hall in late May and early June, and WRAC members expressed their intent to schedule the outreach event on May 29.
- G. Any Other New Business – None

3. **Adjournment**

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 6 March 2025 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Parenti and seconded by Barry Rosen. This motion was unanimously approved by the Committee members in attendance at 9:00 pm.

Meeting Chat File

19:53:48 From Alissa Nicol to Host and panelists:

Another free option is an email announcement to "All Boards and Committees" - those folks are the ones who will show up to a public forum as they're already volunteering to serve.



19:54:53 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:

I appreciate the compliment, Dave, but it's not "Kim's" electronic newspaper. It's the Acton Exchange, actonexchange.org

19:55:45 From Dave B to Host and panelists:

I did know that but Franny epaper is perhaps less clear

20:43:16 From Alissa Nicol to Host and panelists:

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter44/Section53F1~2>

20:43:40 From Alissa Nicol to Host and panelists:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/statutory-treatment-of-municipal-revenue-overview/download>