



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 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), YuTao Wang, Brewster Conant Jr., and Kim Kastens

1. Opening

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

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – Kim Kastens requested time to make a short presentation to the Committee as a representative of Green Acton. Her presentation included an overview of the parts of Chapter F and Chapter X of the Town's bylaw that deal with flood control, erosion control, and stormwater damage. She stated that the Conservation Commission does not deal in depth with floodwater and stormwater issues, and that in the opinion of Green Acton the provisions of Chapter X are not being fully enforced. Therefore, Green Acton requests that WRAC's stormwater feasibility report include a recommendation that the Town undertake an examination and possible strengthening or clarification of the regulatory and enforcement regime around flood control and stormwater management. Kastens emphasized that the best way to keep the rising cost of public infrastructure under control is to keep the water out of the stormwater system, and retain it on the parcels where it falls. Joe Robb suggested that Committee members give serious consideration to these comments, and asked that a discussion of the Green Acton recommendations be included in the agenda for the next meeting.
- B. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 20 February 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 20 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.
- C. Discuss Event Announcement Designs and Placement Options – Mike Geis has been in contact with Town staff and the Finance Committee about scheduling a dry run of the stormwater outreach presentation and the date for the outreach event. Geis is also developing a timeline for placing announcements in a variety of media, including the Acton Exchange, the Municipal Monthly, the Town's News Flash, and other social media outlets. Printed announcements could also be given to Town Meeting attendees. He suggested two types of announcements: one that would be posted well in advance of the



public outreach event that would contain information about the purpose of the meeting, and one that would be posted a week or two in advance of the event that would remind people of the meeting date and time. The possibility of adding meeting information to the Town's stormwater website has been discussed with YuTao Wang, and he has indicated that future website changes requested by WRAC should be straightforward.

The Committee reviewed several outreach announcement designs that had been submitted by members, and the group expressed a strong preference for one of the designs. There were a few suggestions for modifications to the preferred design, but it was decided that WRAC members would submit their revisions for consideration at the next meeting. A final selection will be made at that time.

D. Review of Draft Outreach Presentation and Poster Board Concepts – Parenti presented a draft slide deck for the outreach event that includes a brief description of the stormwater infrastructure, discusses the repairs that have been recommended by Woodard & Curran, and reviews funding options. Kastens commented that the chart that compares the stormwater infrastructure operation and funding with the potable water and sewer utilities was particularly informative. The current plan for the event is to allot 30 minutes for the presentation and questions, and 30 minutes to collect feedback about management and funding options from the meeting attendees. The outreach presentation will be given by Joe Robb, and he will have primary responsibility for selecting the final briefing charts.

The design of the poster boards that will be used to obtain feedback from the outreach attendees was discussed at length. Parenti offered the opinion that the number of funding and management options presented should be minimized, and focus on the willingness of the residents to increase spending for infrastructure improvements. Rosen and Robb argued that the decision space is far more complicated, and that public should be allowed to comment on much more complex set of selection options. Comments from residents on the proposed stormwater utility will be a critical component of this feedback exercise.

E. Discuss Dates for Outreach Event Dry Run and Meeting – Mike Geis has been in contact with Town staff and members of the Finance Committee to schedule dates for a stormwater presentation dry run and the public outreach event. A tentative date for the outreach event at Town Hall has been set for 29 May. Discussions with the Finance Committee about a date for the dry run are still ongoing, but it will likely be scheduled for late April.

F. Any Other New Business – None

3. **Adjournment**

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 20 March 2025 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Ron Parenti. This motion was unanimously approved by the Committee members in attendance at 8:45 pm.



Meeting Chat File

19:13:35 From Dave B to Host and panelists:

What was the final response of the Conservation Commission and Select Board? Did the complainants follow up?

19:23:31 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:

#1. I think was accepted by ConsCom despite abutters concerns.

19:24:19 From Dave B to Host and panelists:

Thanks, Kim

19:24:28 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:

#2. Was rejected by ConsCom on unrelated goals.

19:24:47 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:

#3 is still pending, continued until a future meeting

19:25:00 From Dave B to Host and panelists:



19:25:33 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:

#4. MA DEP took up the culvert size issue and allowed it.

19:27:07 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:

Sorry, on further thought I should have replied just to DaveB individually by email.

19:29:09 From Joe Robb to Host and panelists:

here is the URL <https://www.acton-ma.gov/339/Stormwater>

20:18:05 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:

Where is the Barry Rosen report? I'm looking on the docushare and not seeing it.

20:18:18 From Dave B to Host and panelists:

Not posted yet