



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

1. Opening

WRAC chair Joe Robb opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – None
- B. Discussion of Green Acton's Stormwater and Flood Control Recommendations – Kim Kastens reviewed the recommendation made by Green Acton at the previous meeting, which asks the WRAC to support a more comprehensive enforcement of the Town's regulations relating to wetlands. She argued that the proper maintenance of the Town's wetlands has a beneficial impact on the stormwater infrastructure, which is the subject of the Committee's current study. Members raised questions about the most appropriate way for the Committee to show their support for better enforcement of existing regulations, and if such action would be outside of WRAC's charter. Alissa Nicol responded that a statement of support would be within the mandate given to the Committee by the Select Board, and suggested that comments regarding wetland protection could be inserted into the Feasibility Report in the section that deals with local stormwater regulations. Members agreed with this suggestion, and indicated that the wording of the report would be revised accordingly.
- C. Selection of Stormwater Outreach Flyer and Poster Designs – Several variations of the outreach poster design that was favored at the previous meeting were reviewed, one of which was selected and revised in real time by the members. This final design, which will invite the public to attend an informational meeting about the Town's stormwater infrastructure, will be posted at least a month before the event.

Mike Geis presented a timeline for posting the outreach meeting in the Town's Monthly Bulletin, the Library Calendar, the Town website, NewsFlash, the Acton Exchange, and outdoor posters. The design for the Monthly Bulletin notice was reviewed, slightly modified, and approved for publication.

Ron Parenti noted that he was finding it difficult to obtain assistance from the Town for the construction of an interactive webpage. Following a discussion of this issue, it was



decided that a PDF file, which could be easily linked to the existing DPW stormwater webpage, would serve the same purpose. YuTao Wang indicated that would be able to make the necessary modifications to the DPW webpage. Parenti volunteered to generate an outreach PDF file, and Dave Boccuti volunteered to create a stormwater questionnaire that could be posted on a SurveyMonkey account. Nicol stated that she could assist the Committee with the SurveyMonkey posting. There was also a discussion about some of the pictures that are currently included in the report and in the outreach announcements, which have been downloaded from the internet. An effort will be made to replace these illustrations with pictures taken by Committee members and Town staff; however, it was also decided that use of images sourced from the internet for educational purposes would probably be permitted.

- D. Review of Stormwater Outreach Presentation Slide Deck – Joe Robb reviewed the current version of the slides that he will be presenting at the outreach meeting in May. The presentation deck currently includes 12 slides that describe the purpose of WRAC's stormwater feasibility study, summarize the findings of the Woodard & Curran report regarding the deficiencies of Acton's stormwater infrastructure, and review options for funding the required system upgrades. It is estimated that the talk will require about 20 minutes, including questions from the public. Robb indicated that he is also generating notes to accompany each of the charts, which are about 75% complete. There were several suggestions for modifications to the presentation charts, most of which were relatively minor. Most of the discussion centered on the capital improvement spending chart, and the chart that compares funding levels to maintain the potable water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructures. The outreach presentation includes a discussion of revolving funds; with regard to this topic, Rosen made note of the fact that once created the structure of these funds must be maintained for at least 3 years. In response to a recommendation made by David Martin, WRAC is planning to schedule a dry run of this presentation with the Finance Committee prior to the outreach event. Geis and Parenti will be attending the next Finance Committee meeting to establish a date for that discussion.
- E. Comments on the Completed Draft Report Sections – Discussion deferred until the next WRAC meeting.
- F. Any Other New Business – None

3. **Adjournment**

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 1 April 2025 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Mike Geis. This motion was unanimously approved by the Committee members in attendance at 9:00 pm. All documents referenced during this meeting can be found on DocuShare at <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19035>.

Meeting Chat File

20:26:38 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:



I have to leave to join an 8:30 call. Sorry to miss the discussion of the draft report. Note that the report v5-2 says “It is estimated that approximately half of the rainwater that falls during a storm is captured by the stormwater system [#3], and one important goal of this study is the exploration of regulatory mechanisms to reduce this number” (p. 6). So you have already given yourselves permission to address regulatory mechanisms — at least in a concluding section of the report on next steps or loose ends.