



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2024
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)

1. Opening

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

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – None
- B. Review Minutes from 2 July 2024 – A motion to approve the minutes for 2 May 2024 was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Mike Geis. Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Mike Geis, and Joe Robb voted to approve the minutes.
- C. WRAC's Recommendations to the Select Board Regarding Future Stormwater Management Approaches – The discussion of this agenda item began with a brief overview of the stormwater presentation given to the Select Board by Corey York on 17 June. Alissa Nicol noted that York's presentation was well received by the Select Board, and that she had also reviewed the video of the discussion between the WRAC and York on 23 May. Nicol also informed the Committee that stormwater management has recently been placed on the Town's list of long-term goals. During the Select Board meeting on 17 June, Board members indicated that they would like the WRAC to work with the Town's Engineering Department to develop an improved stormwater management approach, but would also like the WRAC to provide an independent assessment of the preferred approaches.

Barry Rosen expressed the opinion that the stormwater study should begin with some type of needs assessment, which would allow the WRAC to educate the Town's residents about the need to improve the funding for the stormwater infrastructure and solicit input from the public about the approaches under consideration. Rosen noted that there may be strong opposition to the additional fee that residents would be charged for infrastructure maintenance, which is likely to be of the order of \$100 annually. Nicol indicated that it would be important to inform the public that the Engineering Department needs a reliable source of funding for maintenance, as opposed to depending on unused funds allocated for capital projects. Mike Geis stated that it would also be useful to include in the discussion examples of property damage caused by failures of system components that had not been properly maintained. Ron Parenti agreed that a needs assessment that



involved public input would be useful, but that the WRAC should not wait for that study to be completed prior to presenting its recommendations to the Select Board.

Prior to the meeting Joe Robb drafted the following presentation outline, which was made available to Committee members and the public on DocuShare. These charts would be used to convey WRAC's recommendations on an approach to stormwater management at a future Select Board meeting.

- Slide 1 – Brief Overview of Stormwater Management in Acton
- Slide 2 – Overview of Acton's Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance
- Slide 3 – Ramifications of Continuing with Status Quo
- Slide 4 – Summary of Other New England Stormwater Management Plans
- Slide 5 – Potential Roadmap for an Acton Stormwater Utility
- Slide 6 – Potential Funding Sources

Robb noted that his proposed outline did not include a specific recommendation for a stormwater solution, but would list several options and serve as a precursor to a feasibility study that would be performed by the Town. The charts could include examples of feasibility studies and stormwater solutions that have been adopted by neighboring towns. Ron Parenti asked Nicol if the Select Board expected the WRAC to recommend a specific solution as opposed to a short list of options. Nicol responded that the Board was not expecting WRAC to make a selection at this stage of the investigation, but that the value added by the Committee was its accumulation of feasibility studies, funding source information, and management decisions made by surrounding towns. A concise summary of this information will need to be part of WRAC's presentation to the Board.

At the conclusion of this discussion Barry Rosen volunteered to assemble the slides, which will be reviewed by the full committee at the next WRAC meeting. Joe Robb will assist with this effort. Following the next WRAC meeting, the charts will be sent to Corey York and QinRui Pang for their comments prior to the Committee's presentation to the Select Board. Nicol suggested that the Committee should plan to present its findings at the Board meeting scheduled for 23 September.

- D. Method for Coordinating WRAC's Stormwater Management Studies with the Town's Efforts to Improve and Maintain its Stormwater Infrastructure – This agenda item was covered in the Committee's discussions during the previous agenda topic. Barry Rosen volunteered to keep Corey York and QinRui Pang informed of the actions taken by WRAC, and share documents and draft presentation charts generated by the Committee.
- E. Any Other New Business – None

3. Adjournment

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 25 July 2024 at 7pm to discuss WRAC's stormwater presentation to the Select Board. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Ron Parenti. This motion was approved by Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Mike Geis, and Joe Robb at 8:30 pm.