



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2025
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, Corey Godfrey, Dave Boccuti, and Mike Geis

Chairperson: Joe Robb

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Alissa Nicol (Select Board Liaison), Elizabeth Hora, YuTao Wang, Kim Kastens, and John Petersen

1. Opening

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

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – Elizabeth Hora asked about the status of the payments to be made to the Acton Water district by the 3M Company to compensate for PFAS contamination of the Town's water supply. Corey Godfrey, the Water District's representative on the WRAC committee, explained that 3M has agreed to pay \$3M to the Water District. A third of this amount will be paid to the Water District this year, and the remaining two thirds will be paid at a later date.
- B. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 21 August 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 21 August 2025 was made by Ron Parenti and seconded by Mike Geis. The motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously by the members in attendance, Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, Corey Godfrey, Dave Boccuti, and Mike Geis.
- C. Review of the Stormwater Report Decision Flowchart – Parenti presented a revised decision flowchart that now includes separate decision steps for the stormwater funding and management options. A suggestion was made by Dave Boccuti to indicate the work that has already been performed by the WRAC committee. However, Alissa Nicol reminded the members that the purpose of the decision chart was to guide the Select Board in the development of a new stormwater utility approach and that the Board's decision process would begin at the top of the flowchart. Kim Kastens advocated for an additional decision step that would ensure the inclusion of public opinion in the decision process; however, it was decided that a provision for public input was already indicated in the flowchart. Further discussion resulted in a few minor wording changes, and it was decided that the flowchart should include links to relevant report sections and that identical copies of the chart should appear in both the executive summary and in the final report summary.
- D. Review of the Latest Stormwater Report Revisions – Committee members agreed that the current version of the stormwater report (version 14) is close to the final version, but that



revisions to the final summary section need to be made to ensure that the recommendation list is consistent with the wording of the decision flowchart. It was decided that the Committee's recommendations need to be consistent with, but not necessarily identical to, the flowchart decision sequence. Joe Robb volunteered to rewrite the report summary and recommendations section.

John Petersen asked a question about the report's recommendations regarding spending and stormwater management in FY27, which led to an extended discussion about the WRAC's near-term recommendations to the Select Board. Questions were raised about the amount of money that the Town will need for ongoing projects, and if the Town intended to ask for approval to borrow several hundred thousand dollars at the next Town Meeting. Alissa Nicol was asked about current and upcoming stormwater projects, and in response she provided the following list that she recently received from the Town Manager.

New Projects

- Catch basin sump cleaning and material disposal – annual program
- Asset Management Plan – annual pipe/culvert/basin inspections/cleanings
- AMP – Pipe Repairs/Replacements
- Ongoing DPW stormwater repairs
- MS4 – Key Junction Manholes – Inspections and Testing
- Stormwater Utility – sustainable funding source analysis/implementation
- Charter Road – new drainage system - construction
- Deacon Hunt Drive - Duck Pond – BMP Restoration -Design
- Main Street – near St #20 – culvert replacement - construction
- North Main Street – St #820 – culvert replacement – construction

Existing Projects (Current Project Phase - already funded)

- Carlisle Road Bridge replacement – design underway
- Bellows Farm Mill Pond Dam – breach design – design underway
- Stow Street bridge replacement – design underway
- Main Street – near St #920 - culvert replacement – design underway
- Newtown Road – near Simon Willard – culvert replacement – design underway

This list clearly demonstrates the near-term need for additional funding, and Nicol indicated that it is likely that the Town will continue to borrow for stormwater projects until a new funding mechanism is adopted. Committee members agreed that while they were opposed to the Town's plan to borrow for stormwater upgrades each year for the next decade, the recommendations of the stormwater report are not intended to address funding decisions made for the next fiscal year.

The content of Table 5-4, which summarizes the stormwater charges imposed by neighboring towns, was discussed. Since some towns impose a set fee for single-family residences while others set a charge based on the impermeable ground area on the property, it is difficult to make meaningful comparisons. Parenti discussed the approach used to generate the table in version 14 of the report, which assumes an impermeable ground area of 2,500 sq ft for residential properties in the towns that base stormwater fees



on this parameter. This allows an estimate of the average annual charge to be computed for each of the listed towns. WRAC members agreed that this was a good way to compute these cost comparisons. Overall, the annual charge to the owners of residential properties for stormwater system maintenance in most of the listed towns was in the range of \$50 to \$150.

In an off-line conversation, Barry Rosen reported that the material in Section 6 of the report (which deals with the legislation needed to implement some of the report recommendations) has been sent to town counsel for review. This review process is likely to take several weeks.

- E. WRAC Leadership Realignment Vote – At the beginning of this discussion, Alissa Nicol made note of the fact that many Town committees routinely rotate the leadership positions each year so that each member has an opportunity to serve as chair. Joe Robb then solicited input from each of the WRAC members, and it was the Committee’s consensus that Robb had performed well as Chair and should retain that position. Since the position of Vice-Chair is currently vacant, Dave Boccuti was asked if he would be willing to serve and he accepted. Ron Parenti volunteered to continue as Clerk. The motion to make these appointments was moved by Ron Parenti and seconded by Mike Geis. This motion passed unanimously by the WRAC members in attendance, Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, Corey Godfrey, Dave Boccuti, and Mike Geis.
- F. Any Other New Business – None.

3. Adjournment

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 9 October 2025 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Parenti and seconded by Corey Godfrey. This motion was unanimously by the members in attendance at 8:25 pm. All documents referenced during this meeting can be found on DocuShare at <https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19520>.

Meeting Chat File

19:04:46 From John Petersen to Host and panelists:

from MGL

19:04:53 From John Petersen to Host and panelists:

Examples:

EX 1 A public body has seven (7) members, therefore a quorum is four (4) members. If the same seven-member public body has two (2) vacancies, then there are only five (5) members serving on the public body. By default, a quorum is still measured as four (4) members.