



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2025
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

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

Chairperson: Joe Robb

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Alissa Nicol (Select Board Liaison), YuTao Wang, Brewster Conant Jr., and John Petersen

1. **Opening**

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

2. **Regular Business**

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – Alissa Nicol informed the Committee that at the Select Board meeting on 3 November the Town Manager stated that he intends to include a \$700k borrowing request for stormwater improvements in the budget that will be presented at the 2026 Town Meeting. Information about how this money would be spent was not provided, but Nicol reminded the Board members that the WRAC has formed the opinion that this type of repetitive annual borrowing for stormwater is not a sustainable funding approach

Kim Kastens was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted written comments that she asked to be included in the meeting minutes. Her comments note that OARS performed a survey of 60 road/stream crossings in the Nashoba and Fort Pond Brook watershed in 2010. This work was performed in collaboration with the Conservation Commissions of Acton and Westford, and was funded through the Massachusetts Environmental Trust as part of the statewide “River and Stream Continuity Project.” The objectives were to identify, survey, and assess barriers to fish and wildlife passage, and to prioritize problem crossings for remediation, as described in this [link](#). At a recent OARS meeting it was announced that the group has resumed its investigation of culverts and stream continuity. In a related comment John Petersen observed that the stormwater report does not mention how the culverts do or do not support wildlife movements, and he suggested that the Stormwater Report include some mention of this issue.

- B. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 9 October 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 9 October 2025 was made by Ron Parenti and seconded by Barry Rosen. The motion to accept the minutes was approved following aye votes from Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Corey Godfrey, Dave Boccuti, and Mike Geis; Joe Robb did not attend that meeting and abstained.



- C. Review the Latest Stormwater Report Revisions – The Committee reviewed suggested revisions to the Stormwater Report, which had been submitted and posted prior to the meeting by Dave Boccuti and Joe Robb. Each of these comments was discussed by the members, and the agreed upon edits were added to version 14.4 of the report. Most of the comments were directed at text included in the Executive Summary and the Recommendations sections of the document. The structure of the Decision Flowchart was then discussed, but the members decided against making any changes to that illustration. The Committee’s list of recommendations to the Select Board was also reviewed, and a few revisions were made. All of the revisions discussed during this part of the meeting were relatively minor, and Robb noted that the editing process appears to be approaching the asymptotic section of the correction curve. Parenti accepted the task of incorporating the agreed upon edits into the next version of the report.
- D. Progress on the Legal Review of Report Sections 5 and 6 – Alissa Nicol reported that a legal review of Sections 5 and 6 had been emailed to Barry Rosen just prior to the meeting. Unfortunately, this information did not arrive in time to be assessed by the Committee, but the suggested changes to the Stormwater Report will be incorporated into the next revision by Parenti and posted prior to the next WRAC meeting. Brewster Conant then asked if any of the other report sections required a similar review. The Committee discussed this question, but decided that the remaining sections of the report did not contain information that would need to be reviewed by a legal expert.
- E. Review Suggestion to Include Author Biographies in the Stormwater Report – Ron Parenti initiated this discussion by expressing his opposition to the inclusion of author biographies in the report, and he noted that he had not found another example of a document written by a Town committee that included similar information. Opinions on this topic were mixed. Barry Rosen and Joe Robb both expressed their opposition to the biographies, whereas Mike Geis noted that a description of the qualifications of the authors is useful information. John Petersen spoke in support of the inclusion of biographies as a means to inform future readers of the report about the academic credentials and work experience of the authors. Alissa Nicol expressed the opinion that if biographies are included, the statements should be limited to relevant information such as the fields of expertise and relevant work experience. Parenti then introduced a motion to remove the biographies from the report, which was seconded by Barry Rosen. The motion subsequently passed after receiving aye votes from Parenti, Rosen, Robb, and Godfrey, and abstentions from Geis and Boccuti.
- F. Any Other New Business – John Petersen asked about Ashland’s use of high-resolution MassGIS imagery to identify impervious regions on industrial properties, which is a topic that was briefly discussed at the previous WRAC meeting. He asked if there would be a future discussion of the possibility of using MassGIS data to characterize parcels in Acton, and Corey Godfrey responded that he is planning to prepare a presentation on this topic at a future meeting.

Alissa Nicol encouraged Committee members to view the video of the [Open Meeting Bylaw presentation](#) given by Nina Pickering-Cook on 14 October, 2025. She



stated that an understanding of this bylaw is particularly important when working on documents like the Stormwater Report, which are written by multiple authors. She emphasized that one person should be assigned to edit the report, and that all comments regarding the report be sent to that editor. The edited report should then be posted on DocuShare so that Committee members, and the public, can have access to the material. All of the revisions of the Stormwater Report have been handled in this manner.

3. Adjournment

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 20 November 2025 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Mike Geis. This motion was unanimously approved at 8:40 pm. All documents referenced during this meeting can be found on DocuShare at

<https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19667>