

**Minutes**  
**Acton Water Resources Advisory Committee**  
**January 10, 2007**  
**Parker-Damon Elementary School**  
**Library**

Attendees

Members: Lauren Rosenzweig, Eric Hilfer, Helen Probst, Allen Nitschelm, Ken Sundberg, Nancy Tavernier, Chris Schaffner,

Associates: Carol Holley

Support Staff: Doug Halley, Brent Reagor, JD Head

Public: Mary Michelman, Terra Friedrichs, Aidan Smith, Andy Munro, Don Barron, Rob Gogan

The meeting opened at 7:10 P.M.

**Minutes – 12/13/2006**

An amendment to the minutes was requested noting that Ron Beck had requested the Expansion Subcommittee also look at other Needs Planning Areas in addition to Spencer/Tuttle, West Acton, and Indian Village.

Motion made, seconded, minutes approved as amended

**Mission Statement**

Copies of the draft Mission Statement prepared by Ann Chang and the edits proposed by Nancy Tavernier were distributed. The committee discussed the language of the Mission Statement to make sure it reflected the committee's focus and goals. A final version of the language was developed.

Motion made, seconded, to approve the Mission Statement as amended

**Subcommittee Reports – Capacity Optimization**

No report, Committees work is finished for now

**Subcommittee Reports – Expansion Feasibility Study**

Lauren Rosenzweig reported on the Woodard and Curran proposal that has been discussed at previous committee and subcommittee meetings. Two tasks must be accomplished prior to the study. The committee needs the results of the proposed Capacity Optimization Study, and a source of funding must be established. The current Sewer Assessment Bylaw does not allow the funding of sewer planning studies from the general tax base without a 2/3's vote at Town Meeting.

Questions were asked about the inclusion of additional Needs Planning Areas and the original proposal to perform both the Capacity and Expansion studies back-to-back. Nancy Tavernier responded that the committee should take a tiered approach to the feasibility study based upon

prioritization in the CWRMP and the results of the capacity study. She supported a minimum of three articles for the April Town Meeting: changing the bylaw to allow a majority vote for planning project funding, funding for the capacity study, and funding for the expansion feasibility study. These ideas were supported by other members of the committee, along with support for expansion of the feasibility study to include other Needs Planning Areas.

Terra Friedrichs suggested that the committee evaluate a cluster system for the Douglas-Gates school complex and West Acton Village.

Members of the Spencer/Tuttle neighborhood inquired as to the status of their neighborhood in the overall project, and why the committee was continuing to study. The committee responded that the Spencer/Tuttle neighborhood is still #1 on the list of priorities, and the studies are designed to assist in the development of a economically and environmentally viable project.

#### **Proposed Studies – Capacity Optimization Study**

Brent Reagor explained the focus of the study is to hydro-geologically evaluate the existing rapid infiltration bed disposal site for the Middle Fort Pond Brook WWTF and determine if additional disposal capacity is available. Eric Hilfer requested that the study include a re-evaluation of impacts on area public water supplies.

#### **Proposed Studies – Expansion Feasibility Study**

Brent Reagor explained the focus of the feasibility study, based upon the proposed scope from Woodard and Curran. The committee discussed the exact details of the study, and the clarification of additional potential study areas beyond Spencer/Tuttle, West Acton, and Indian Village. Mary Michelman asked if sewers would be extended to everyone possible, based upon what she understood of the discussions. Allen Nitschelm responded that the sewerage option takes the longest time to study, and so that option must be explored first. Terra Friedrichs expressed that sewers should not be extended to areas that do not demonstrate a need, and asked about the MAPC/USGS study. Lauren Rosenzweig explained that the MAPC portion of the study is complete and the WRAC will have input on the development of the wastewater disposal and groundwater model when USGS is ready to begin that process. Lauren also reported that she and staff met with School District officials to discuss the potential issues and solutions at the West Acton school complex.

#### **Moving Forward – Warrant Articles**

The committee briefly discussed potential articles for the Town Meeting Warrant, including: changing the current Sewer Assessment Bylaw to allow a majority vote for general taxpayer funding of planning studies, and funding of the Capacity and Feasibility studies. This discussion was tabled till the February meeting since staff had yet to receive a response from Town Counsel on legal questions.

#### **Moving Forward – Outreach and Education**

The committee decided to form a general Outreach and Education Committee to promote better water resources management throughout Acton. Chris Schaffner, Helen Probst, Terra Friedrichs, Carol Holley, and Ann Chang volunteered. Brent will set up the meeting places and times in the coming weeks.

### **Other Business**

Allen Nitschelm and other members of the committee commended staff on the work to produce the report on septic tank pumping from 2002-2005 and requested that a representative sample of single family residences be taken and evaluated in the same fashion. Brent Reagor agreed to perform this analysis.

Brent Reagor mentioned that he was coordinating a calendar of all constituent groups of the WRAC in order to better select meeting dates. This calendar will be sent out to the group once it is complete. He also stated that Pio Lombardo, the subcontractor from Phase I and II of the CWRMP would be at the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in the Junior HS library to discuss the GIS needs analysis.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Draft Minutes