

**Minutes**  
**Acton Water Resources Advisory Committee**  
**March 21, 2007**  
**Emergency Operations Center**  
**Public Safety Facility**

Attendees

Members: Andy Magee, Lauren Rosenzweig, Ken Sundberg, Eric Hilfer, Helen Probst, Allen Nitschelm, Nancy Tavernier, Joanne Bissetta, Ann Chang

Associates: Carol Holley

Support Staff: Doug Halley, J. D. Head

Public: Mary Michelman, Terra Friedrichs, Aidan Smith, Andy Munro

Mr. Magee called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

**Minutes**

Minutes of 2/21/07 were approved as amended.

Mr. Magee reviewed the agenda noting the Committee needed to accomplish three things: 1.) Review the Warrant Articles, 2). Discuss the Warrant Outreach/Education and 3). Discuss the next task for addressing the recommendations of the CWRMP.

**Review of Warrant Articles**

It was noted that both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee had recommended approval of both Warrant Articles. If the Articles are approved at Town Meeting Requests for Proposals would be developed and advertised for bids from all consultants. It is likely that Woodard & Curran will be the only responder to the Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBS) Capacity Report because of the extensive modeling they have already done at the site. However, there was a reasonable expectation that other consultants may respond to the Sewer Extensions Design Basis Report, based a perceived opportunity of further work for the Town.

The RIBS Capacity report will include an examination of the time of travel to the Assabet wells. However, this examination will be a simple formula relying on the quantity of wastewater discharged, the hydrogeologic conditions and the location of the wells in relationship to the RIBS. It is the Committee's expectation that any greater refinement would come when the Water District remodels the Zone II for the Assabet wells as they seek to have Assabet 3 approved. It was noted that the RIBS study will provide important information as to what the RIBS are actually doing and whether or not the discharge could be increased.

The Sewer Extensions Design Basis Report will have differentiated costs for the two proposed areas (Spencer/Tuttle & East West Acton Center). The intent of the study is to develop a potential design that could define costs within 20%, both individually for the two systems and collectively.

### **Warrant Outreach/Education**

Mr. Magee distributed hard copies of emails that detailed the dissemination of information on the activities of the volunteers working on the Warrant Outreach/Education. Concern was raised both within the Committee and the attending public regarding the openness of these activities. It was agreed that misunderstandings and missteps had been made and the Committee agreed to ensure in the future that volunteers be clearly identified as a subcommittee, task force or acting as an agent to the Committee to ensure that the Open Meeting law be abided by.

A newspaper article had been drafted and the Beacon had agreed to save space for its use. Ms. Rosenzweig met with the Conservation Commission and Planning Board and gave an objective presentation on the parameters of the two Warrant Articles recommended by the WRAC. She noted that both boards were interested in and curious about the background for both Articles. They questioned why future users aren't being charged. Lauren was able to explain that until the studies are done the future users can't be identified.

Ms. Rosenzweig noted that the focus has been on getting information out to the high priority stake holders that are immediately impacted by the proposed Articles. Evening coffees had been structured to encourage open communication.

The Committee discussed holding an information session open to all citizens prior to Town Meeting. It was noted that due to the impending religious observances only April 4<sup>th</sup> was a viable date for a meeting. Mr. Nitschelm and Ms. Friedrichs were asked if they would like to coordinate that meeting. Mr. Nitschelm noted that he had existing commitments which would not allow him take on that duty.

The Committee and attending public went through a detailed review of the public information documents developed for Warrant Article Outreach/Education, including: Newspaper Article, Information Slides and a FAQ. Many amendments were suggested by the public and all were accepted by the Committee. The Committee voted to approve all of the documents as amended. It was noted that they would be used at the first informational session scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Next Steps**

Mr. Magee reviewed what the focus of the Committee should be and why sewer expansion has dominated the conversation thus far. Now that Town Meeting is addressing the recommended studies it was time to refocus on the overall wastewater issues raised by the CWRMP.

In general the Committee agreed that educational sessions regarding how the wastewater needs areas were defined was important. Staff was requested to schedule Pio Lombardo, the consultant that defined the Needs Areas, for a future meeting so that a better understanding could be attained on the analysis that was done. In addition, it was suggested that the following subjects be addressed at upcoming meetings: Innovative/Alternative system, Wastewater Management Districts and Cluster/Shared systems.

**Meetings**

Next meetings were scheduled for: May 9<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, location to be determined.