

**Minutes**  
**Acton Water Resources Advisory Committee**  
**May 9, 2007**  
**Faulkner Room**  
**Town Hall**

Attendees

Members: Andy Magee, Lauren Rosenzweig, Ken Sundberg, Helen Probst, Allen Nitschelm, Joanne Bissetta, Ann Chang, Chris Schaffner

Associates: Carol Holley, Ron Beck

Support Staff: Doug Halley, Brent Reagor, J. D. Head

Public: Mary Michelman, Terra Friedrichs

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

**Minutes**

Minutes of 3/21/07 were tabled until the next meeting.

**Request for Proposals**

Mr. Magee reviewed the Request For Proposals process and the two proposals; Rapid Infiltration Basin Capacity Study and the Design Basis Report for Areas 10 & 12A. It was noted that the two proposals would be advertised in the State's Central Register and will be directly mailed to any consultant that has expressed interest in working in Acton. It was noted that the RIB capacity study requires a time-of-travel analysis to the existing wells, but it was also noted that a Zone 2 analysis was beyond the scope of the study. Ms. Chang moved to accept the RFP for the RIB Capacity Study as written, Ms. Probst seconded, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nitschelm moved to accept the RFP for Design Basis Report, Ms. Rosenzweig seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Schedule**

The Committee scheduled June 13<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> for the next WRAC meetings.

**Pio Lombardo Presentation**

Pio Lombardo from Lombardo Associates appeared before the Committee to go over the process that was utilized to determine the needs lots identified in the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (CWRMP). Lombardo Associates was the subconsultant to Woodard & Curran during the development of the CWRMP. Their specialization is onsite wastewater systems and the identification of factors that enhance or inhibit long term sustainability.

Mr. Lombardo noted that his firm did 40% of the Phase I work for the CWRMP. This work included an extensive amount of information that was digitized for a lot by lot

analysis of the entire Town. His firm examined trends of onsite wastewater system replacement, age when replaced, and variances granted for replacement. There was a wealth of information available from the Health Department which allowed Lombardo Associates to formulate a definitive analysis of the wastewater issues in the community. Overall the Town is in a good position with only an average of 1.4% failure rate per year. However, the analysis also showed problem areas scattered throughout the community. These problem areas were associated with a variety of factors including poor percolating soils, high groundwater, wetlands, flood plains and small lots.

As shown on the maps, red lots indicated off-site solutions were required, orange lots required mounds of three feet or more and yellow lots required mounds of one and one half feet. Mounds were considered non-beneficial for on-site solutions because of their environmental, aesthetic and financial impact. Mr. Lombardo noted that the analysis did not attempt to discern which systems were currently in failure, but only to identify developed lots that did not meet the minimum requirements for safe onsite wastewater discharge.

### **Next Meeting**

At the next meeting copies of the responses to the RIBs Capacity Study will be distributed to the Committee. Also on the agenda will be the beginning of a re-examination of the priority level for each of the needs areas. The Committee requested that staff provide a presentation that summarizes the solutions and in particular goes over the requirements of management districts. In addition, the Committee will begin strategizing how to proceed forward with the education component needed to address all issues within the CWRMP.

Ms. Chang moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 P.M., Ms. Probst seconded, the motion carried unanimously.