

**Minutes**  
**Acton Water Resources Advisory Committee**  
**September 20, 2006**  
**Emergency Operations Center**  
**Public Safety Facility**  
**365 Main Street, Acton**

Attendees

Members: Andrew Magee, Lauren Rosenzweig, Ken Sundberg, Eric Hilfer, Helen Probst, Joanna Bissetta, Jim Deming, Allen Nitschelm, Ann Chang, Nancy Tavernier, John Ryder, Chris Schaffner

Associates: Carol Holley, Ron Beck

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

Public: Garry McCarthy, Bob Rafferty, Pam Shuttle, Stephen Gargas, Sam Nablo, Aidan Smith, Mary Michelman, Joe Pitta, Andy Munro, Beth Thompson, David Winders, Terra Friedrichs, Tai Summers-McGuinness, Michael Summers-McGuinness

The meeting opened at 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Taylor, Acton Town Clerk, swore in the members of the Committee.

Mr. Magee welcomed everyone. Members, Associates and Staff made brief introductions. A hard copy of the CWRMP (Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan), a CD of the CWRMP with appendixes and the MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act) certificate were given to each of the members and associates. Mr. Magee noted that he would serve as Chairman pro-tem. He also noted that members of the committee would have voting rights and that their alternates would become associates without voting rights. This was done to ensure continuity of decisions within the Committee.

Mr. Reagor gave a presentation of the CWRMP to the Committee and public. He noted that the CWRMP had received MEPA approval. He noted that the common goal for the Committee was better water resources management.

Mr. Reagor noted that this town-wide study had begun in 2000. The Town followed a scope and process set by the State. A 15 member Citizen's Advisory Committee oversaw and provided input through the entire process.

Mr. Reagor noted that Phase 1 of the study analyzed existing conditions and completed a basic needs analysis. This Phase was completed in 2004. He also noted that a need was based on a parcel's identified structural and non-structural conditions.

Mr. Nitschelm asked what was meant by non-structural conditions. Mr. Reagor noted economic factors, aesthetic factors and implementability issues.

Mr. Reagor noted that Phase 2 of the study grouped needs into 15 planning areas. He noted that the recommended plan proposed one of 3 solutions for the 15 areas; sewer

extension/ expansion, cluster/ neighborhood systems and wastewater management districts.

Mr. Reagor noted that level of need, project viability, implementability and ability to sync with other planning efforts determined prioritization.

Mr. Reagor reviewed the variety of issues that need to be addressed for each of the three proposed solutions. He then reviewed each needs area regarding priority and proposed solutions. He completed his review by noting that the process of implementing the CWRMP will take considerable time. He also noted that each solution must address environmental concerns and be acceptable to the impacted stakeholders.

Mr. Magee briefly reviewed the MEPA certificate noting that it requires the Committee to continue to engage the public and special interests as decisions are brought forth. Ms. Holley requested that the MEPA certificate and public comments be placed on the town's website. Staff agreed to make sure that was done.

Mr. Magee distributed a draft mission statement and requested that members review the statement and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

Mr. Magee opened the meeting up to public discussion.

Mr. Nablo questioned the goal to provide greater oversight for wastewater systems noting that his property was part of Farmbrook which receives monthly oversight. Mr. Halley noted that facilities like Farmbrook were the model for the greater oversight recommended.

Ms. Friedrichs stated that solutions in the plan were chosen for economic advantages not environmental advantages. She stated that each solution and all alternatives must be analyzed for their economic impact and compared with non-structural solutions.

Ms. Michelman asked that greater education efforts be made on the maintenance of wastewater systems. Staff agreed to place more information in the Town's monthly quarterly.

Mr. Nitschelm raised questions regarding the capacity of the current sewer system. He stated that the actual discharge was significantly lower than the permitted discharge rate.

Mr. Magee noted that capacity for high flow rates had to be accounted for. Mr. Halley noted that capacity for properties not yet connected had to be set aside in perpetuity. Mr. Nitschelm indicated that the Assistant Town Manager, John Murray had given contradictory information.

The committee requested that a visit to the Town's treatment plant be scheduled, as well as, private treatment plants and individual septic systems.

The committee scheduled the next meeting for October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. J. D. Head offered to find a room at the schools for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.