

Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2016

Agenda:

- A. Comments from Citizens
- B. Approve Minutes from the January 25th Meeting
- C. OLD BUSINESS:
 - Town of Concord's Proposed Connection to the District Off Knox Trail
- D. NEW BUSINESS:
 - Discussion of the Town of Concord's Water Rights to Nagog Pond

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Ronald Parenti.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti (Chair), Stephen Stuntz, Leonard Phillips
District Manager: Chris Allen
District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates
District Counsel: Mary Bassett
Environmental Compliance Manager: Matthew Mostoller
WLMAC: Barry Rosen, John Cipar
Town of Acton Selectmen: Janet Adachi

A. Comments from Citizens:

None

B. Approve Minutes of January 25th meeting:

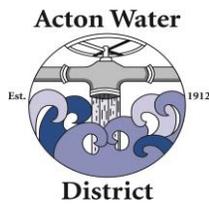
Mr. Parenti moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2016 and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Town of Concord's Proposed Connection to the District water for property in Concord off Knox Trail

Mr. Stuntz opened the discussion by stating that he was tasked to write up an overview as to why Article 5 is on the Warrant and why the voters should allow the Commissioners to enter into negotiations for an inter-municipal agreement with Concord. Mr. Stuntz asked if Acton voters would have to approve the inter-municipal agreement once negotiated. Counselor Bassett stated that the District only needs voter approval to enter into an inter-municipal agreement to supply water outside the District boundaries, but would not need approval of the final agreement. In general, the Commissioners do not need voter approval to negotiate anything, it is the enlarging the District boundaries to supply water to a property outside the District that requires the approval. She reminded the Commissioners that they did not get final voter approval on the Boxboro Inter-municipal agreement. She stated that the Commissioners can always bring back to District voters the proposed Concord Inter-municipal agreement for their approval but it is not necessary.

All documents referred to in meeting minutes are available for inspection at the office of
Acton Water District, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA 01720 (978) 263-9107.



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Mr. Phillips stated that the Commissioners need to heed the advice of the Water & Land Management Advisory Committee (WLMAC) and their suggestions on what would be the important parameters to consider. He noted that WLMAC did not come up with any benefits of why it's a good thing to enter into an agreement. He further noted that the timing of the request is ill-advised, noting the issues with the Nuclear Metals Superfund site and the potential impact on water capacity issue at the Assabet wells. He is worried about Acton's water supply and how this impacts the town. He is not in favor of warrant.

Mr. Parenti stated that if we had agreement with Concord to supply Acton with water from Nagog Pond then that would be a benefit to the District.

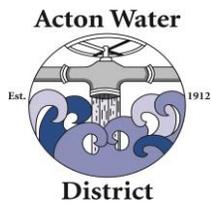
Mr. Phillips still doesn't feel like this is the right time to take a positive position on this. Unless there is a full study and understanding of the issues with a concrete plan of action, and until that happens, he doesn't feel comfortable in recommending warrant. If Concord agrees to doing a study or providing benefits to the town of Acton, then, he may reconsider.

Selectman Adachi stated that in a recent Selectmen Meeting, a site plan was approved by Acton selectmen for a new home development on Great Road. The Selectmen asked the developer where they would get water from and the developer stated that he is in talks with the Town of Concord asking if they will supply the water. She doesn't know what the developer will do if Concord says no. She suggested that District should have some offline discussions with Town of Concord. Mr. Allen stated that he has had conversations with Concord Superintendent of Water & Sewer in the past regarding Concord's supply of water in Acton. Concord's philosophy is there will be no new connections in Acton.

Mr. Mostoller stated that Mr. Stuntz put together a good start regarding laying out the issues for an inter-municipal agreement. He doesn't think discussions should go forward unless groundwater protection measures, bedrock issues, and acquisition of supply sources are added. He stated either deal with the issue at hand (which is Acton providing water for the Concord School Bus Transportation Facility project) or lay everything out on the table.

Mr. Rosen spoke on behalf of the WLMAC. He stated that WLMAC held another meeting on 2-10-16 to consider if the committee would participate in the District Annual Meeting. He stated that there was a unanimous vote (4-0) in that WLMAC will take a position and speak at the meeting; the committee rejects Article 5; no positive benefits and no measurement for success.

The Commissioners agreed that the time was not ripe at the upcoming annual meeting to bring Article 5 before the voters and that the article should be passed over or no action taken. Counselor Bassett will look into the difference between "take no action versus pass over" and which one the Commissioners should take at the Annual Meeting. As soon as Mr. Allen hears from Counselor Bassett on the position the Commissioners should take at the Annual Meeting regarding Article 5, he will inform Mr. Rich Reine, Concord Public Works Director, about their position. As Mr. Phillips stated it appeared that the article was a simple request but it has now opened up more questions for discussion. The Commissioners agreed that more discussion needs to be held with Concord in regard to many of the issues facing the District in the future in regard to the Superfund site, water capacity issues, groundwater protection, etc.



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D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of the Town of Concord's Water Rights on Nagog Pond

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that on Friday, February 19th, he will be meeting with Katie Green, Chair of Acton Board of Selectmen, and Steve Ledoux, Acton Town Manager. The meeting with them will be to discuss Concord's proposed new water treatment plant at Nagog Pond, the 1884 Act originally giving Concord access to the waters of Nagog Pond, and whether there will be a need from Acton to want access to this water in the future.

Other New Business:

1. North Acton Water Treatment Plant - Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that on Thursday, February 4th, at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant there was a small flood caused by a malfunction in the controls that caused water to be pumped into building. About 30" of water ended up in the finished pump gallery in the plant's lower level. The treatment plant was taken off line to have the problems fixed. Mr. Allen had to order four new pumps and replace the hot water heater due to this equipment being submerged. A claim has been submitted to the insurance company. While plant has been turned off, they had the internal plant tanks emptied and cleaned with Pantanite. Mr. Allen showed before and after pictures of tanks. The NAWTP is still offline, but most of the clean-up is complete.

2. 2015 Annual Report - Mr. Mostoller informed the Commissioners that the Report is now live on the District website and customers have been notified that the Report is now available for viewing.

3. Flint, MI and Lead Poisoning Issue - In regards to the lead poisoning issue in Flint, MI that has been in the news this past month, Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the District wanted to be proactive with customers who may be concerned about this issue in Acton. Mr. Mostoller did some QA/QC on the current information on the District's website, some additional current links were inserted, and a link to the Lead information was placed on the homepage. Mr. Mostoller mentioned that he received one phone call from a customer about what they read online. He mentioned that lead and copper sampling/testing will be this summer 2016 (the District is on a 3 year cycle to have sampling/testing of lead & copper).

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm and it was unanimously approved.