

# Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
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ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

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Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2014

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**Agenda:**

- A. Comments from Citizens
- B. Approve Minutes from the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Meetings
- C. OLD BUSINESS:
  - 1. Update on Property Tax Abatement for 16 Knox Trail.
  - 2. Proposal for Amendment to the Groundwater Protection District (GWPD) By-law.
  - 3. DRAFT Water Management Act Discussion and Comments.
  - 4. Update on Copper Service Failures in West Acton.
- D. NEW BUSINESS:

Any agenda item(s) which did not come to the attention of the Board of Commissioners 48 hours prior to this meeting and were not reasonably anticipated.

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2014 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Ron Parenti.

**Present at Tonight's Meeting:**

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti, Leonard Phillips (Chairman), and Stephen Stuntz  
District Manager: Chris Allen  
Treasure/Collector: Mary Jo Bates  
District Counsel: Mary Bassett  
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller  
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki  
Finance Committee: Charles Bradley  
WLMAC: Barry Rosen, John Cipar & Paul Malchodi

**A. Comments from Citizens**

No comments were made at this evening's meeting.

**B. Approve Minutes from the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting.**

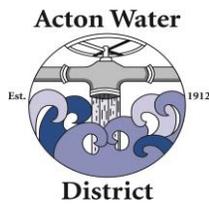
Mr. Parenti moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on June 2, 2014 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Update on Property Tax Abatement for 16 Knox Trail.

Mr. Allen provided an update to the Commissioners on the property tax abatement for 16 Knox Trail which is the recently acquired Assabet Sand & Gravel parcel. Mr. Allen stated that he emailed Steve LeDoux, Town Manager for Acton, on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and followed up with a phone call but he has not heard back from him. Enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners is a copy of the email. Ms. Bates stated that the District received a demand notice to pay the property tax immediately (due July 21<sup>st</sup>). Counselor Bassett stated that there are no

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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chances of winning an appeal from the MA State Board of Appeals. Acton needs to decide to waive the abatement/MA State Board of Appeals can't force Acton to do it.

Counselor Bassett will send to Brian McMullen, Board of Assessors, all examples of past appeals. Mr. Stuntz will contact Janet Adachi to see what the best approach will be to get the abatement appealed.

By July 14<sup>th</sup> (next District open meeting) group will need to make final decision to pay or not to pay taxes.

## 2. Proposal for Amendment to the Groundwater Protection District (GWPD) By-law.

Mr. Allen updated the Commissioners regarding the amendment to the Groundwater Protection District By-Law. He informed the Commissioners that Evan Carloni and Derrick Chin of the Acton Planning Board have agreed to be a part of the sub-committee. Mr. Mostoller met with them today and they provided favorable comments. He gave them both a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP): Groundwater Protection Review (this is enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners). Mr. Mostoller plans to send out this RFP to a short list of consulting firms and is asking for their proposals by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The sub-committee will then meet in July to decide on the consultant that we will use.

## 3. DRAFT Water Management Act Discussion and Comments.

Mr. Allen stated that there have been multiple conversations around the DRAFT Regulation at several past open meetings. The deadline for comments is July 10<sup>th</sup>. If the Commissioners are interested in providing their comments to please send them along to Mr. Allen and Mr. Mostoller. They will then compile and formalize their letter and send off to Mass Water Works Association (MWWA), and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

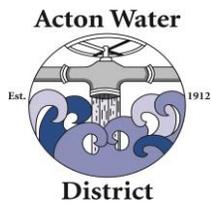
Mr. Allen mentioned that there has been some legal "scuttlebutt" going on around the new Regulations. MWWA is facilitating a meeting for water purveyors and their legal counsel surrounding the issues, and possible legal recourse. Mr. Allen mentioned that Attorney Jane Ceraso will be involved, and Counselor Bassett has expressed an interest in participating, as well. Timing on the first meeting has yet to be determined.

## 4. Update on Copper Service Failures in West Acton.

Enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners is a copy of the report from CorrTech regarding the failure of copper water service piping in West Acton; copy of email correspondence from Mr. Allen to Jorge Santi with the MA Department of Public Utilities; and a copy of an email correspondence from Mr. Allen to Donald Doubleday of National Grid.

Mr. Allen stated the study was done by CorrTech, whom the District contracted to assess the conditions in West Acton. The report concludes that National Grid's rectifier which is located on Willow Street is causing the accelerated corrosion of the copper pipes. Mr. Allen stated that since 2012 this has been the largest incident of having to replace over 60 copper pipes in a ½ mile radius.

Mr. Allen has been in contact with National Grid to discuss the situation. He contacted Jorge Santi who will discuss the matter further with National Grid. At this time there have been no updates to report from either National Grid or Mr. Santi.



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## Other Old Business:

Mr. Allen provided an update to the Commissioners on the following on-going water main projects:

- Hayward Road: The contractor, Onyx, is coming to completion with this water main. He mentioned that they are encountering ledge and they are drilling holes throughout the ledge, weakening it, and thereby, making it easier to remove.
- The raw water transmission line for the new South Acton Water Treatment Plant is in from School Street to Assabet except for 50 ft. on School Street near Hosmer Street; because the contractor has encountered ledge that will need to be removed to achieve proper depth of the pipe.
- Construction on High Street has been restricted to 9-3 p.m. but the contractor is making good progress.

Mr. Allen stated that he has been providing periodic updates on the District's website. Included on the site is a copy of the schedules and progress photos.

## **D. NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that Maureen Mara of Mara & Associates, District Auditor, will be conducting the annual audit in August vs. July, so she will, most likely, report her findings to the Commissioners in September.

*Mr. Phillips made a motion to adjourn the Board of Water Commissioners meeting at 8:30 p.m. and was unanimously approved.*