

Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2010

The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 1, 2010 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

Present: Commissioners Stephen Stuntz, Ronald Parenti, and Leonard Phillips. District Manager Chris Allen, District Counselor Mary Bassett, Environmental Manager Matthew Mostoller, Commissioners Secretary Lynn Protasowicki. Finance Committee member(s) David Butler, and Bill Kingman. District Moderator Richard O'Brien. Also in attendance: John Cipar and Paul Malchodi of the WLMAC, Barry Rosen representing WRAC and WLMAC and Mary Michelman representing ACES.

A. Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens at tonight's meeting.

B. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2010

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on September 13, 2010 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes as modified.

C. New Business

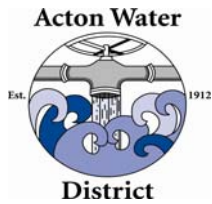
Mr. Ivan Dobrianov of 9 Carriage Drive for Request for Abatement of Water Bill

Presented in this evening's packet to the Commissioners is a letter from Mr. Ivan Dobrianov to Chris Allen. Mr. Dobrianov spoke at tonight's meeting concerning the poor water quality at 9 Carriage Drive. He presented photos to the Commissioners that show the discoloration of water found in his commode as well as water that had been filtered using carbon-activated cartridges. Mr. Dobrianov stated that the color of the water is much worse during the summer months however he is now seeing a slight improvement.

Mr. Allen then presented the findings from the hydraulic simulations utilizing the Acton Water System Hydraulic Model on Carriage Drive. The results are included in a letter from Wright-Pierce to Mr. Allen which is included in the Commissioners packet. Mr. Allen stated it appears that the water quality issues on Carriage Drive are the result of high iron and manganese concentrations at the Assabet Water Treatment Facility and low flow velocities in the neighborhood. The permanent solution to the problem is to treat the Assabet sources for iron and manganese removal. This will improve water quality in the system and will reduce the volume of iron and manganese that needs to be flushed from the system annually, reducing flushing time and cost.

Mr. Allen stated that they had opened the closed valve on Clover Hill Road at Parker Street and will perform a "Jelly Bean" cleaning of the water service line. The District will use a hand-pump to pump jelly beans through the pipe and the jelly beans scour the sediment off the service line. Should this not be successful, AWD would then need to excavate the area around the service tap on the water main to verify the orientation of the Corporation on the main. It may be low on the pipe and, therefore, be a conduit for sediment to enter the service line.

Mr. Dobrianov then asked if he would be able to receive an abatement. Stated that he was concerned with what the brown water is doing to his appliances. He asked for a timeline as to when the problem will get rectified.



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Mr. Allen by the end of the November they will have completed the “Jelly Bean” cleaning and excavation. However they won’t know if this has rectified the problem until Spring 2011. Mr. Stuntz said that they will “table” the abatement request and will discuss at the January meeting.

Water District Moderator for Proposal Associated with the Annual Meeting

Presented in this evening’s packet to the Commissioners is a proposal from District Moderator Richard O’Brien regarding a new concept and budget approach to the annual meeting. Moderator O’Brien stated that many of the members of the leadership team at the Acton Water District have expressed concern about the lack of attendance at the District Annual Meeting. He states that there is a lot of work that goes into planning the meeting and then no one from the public shows. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to gain voter approval of business items. He states that when public voters don’t show it provides the District with little feedback and little direction or reaction regarding the important work being done. Moderator O’Brien asks the question, “How could the District get better results from the Annual Meeting?” He proposes that the Annual Meeting be expanded to become a public “Event” featuring the Acton Water District being the main focus and its key product, “Acton Water Today”, a vehicle to achieve the objectives of management. He states that the “Event” would be an all-day /all weekend program targeted to reach all the public: voters, management/leadership; suppliers; Town of Acton Board; partners of the District, etc. He would look for partners including Rotary and Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Phillips suggests talking with the Eagle Scouts and reaching out to the schools and public health officials. Mr. Allen and Mr. Matt Mostoller informed the board that there is currently a significant educational outreach program in place. The Water District has a presence in the local schools, which Mr. Mostoller visits regularly in an effort to educate school age children on the importance of water, its protection, conservation, and other key topics impacting the environment. The Commissioners agree to move forward with the idea.

Action: Moderator O’Brien will pull together the plan with timelines and present back to the Commissioners on how to move forward.

Maynard Request for Zone 2 Protection – WLMAC Recommendation to the Commissioners

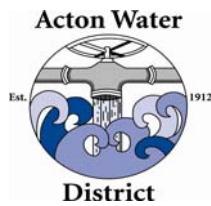
Mr. Barry Rosen spoke this evening regarding WLMAC’s recommendation to approve Maynard’s request for Zone 2 protection. He stated that approximately 18 months ago Maynard requested from Acton to protect a Zone 2 area that encroaches into Acton – it is 1 of 3 bedrock wells – the located of the request is on Main Street near Christmas Motors. The request bounced around with the Board of Selectmen and then it was passed onto the Board of Health where the request sat unanswered. It appears that Acton recommended that Maynard pay for a study, at a cost of \$8-\$10,000, that would explain why Acton should protect bedrock wells versus a surface wells. WLMAC reviewed and investigated the request. Mr Rosen stated that WLMAC agrees that Acton should protect the Zone 2 because this will foster good relations between the two Towns. And, WLMAC recommends that the Commissioners write a letter to Town of Acton and Board of Selectmen requesting the Zone 2 protection and how this will foster good relations.

Mr. Stuntz stated that before they make their final decision on writing the letter he will speak with The Board of Selectmen.

D. Old Business

Results of Hydraulic Modeling Done in the Carriage Drive Neighborhood to Determine Reason for Consistently Poor Water Quality

Included in this evening’s packet to the Commissioners are the results of the hydraulic modeling done in the Carriage Drive neighborhood. Mr. Allen reviewed the findings under “New Business, Item #1”.



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WLMAC for Applewood Condominium Request for Connection to the AWD

Mr. Barry Rosen spoke on behalf of WLMAC regarding Applewood Condominium's request for connection to the Acton Water District. The Applewood Community Corp. received a mandate from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to approach Acton Water District requesting the connection to the public water supply. WLMAC did some research and found that Acton Water District could take them on – they use 20,000-25,000 gallons of water per day (higher during the summer months).

Negotiations should ensue between Acton Water District, Applewood Condominium and DEP. Negotiations could consist of no outside irrigation, use their own water, how metering would be done, etc.

Mr. Paul Malchodi stated that the benefits of connecting the Condominium to the District are the following: it would provide an opportunity to keep relations between Boxborough and Acton (cross-boundary cooperative); and the District would be able to manage the Zone 2 property because the land is adjacent to District property, and directly impacts the Clapp & Whitcomb well sources.

Mr. Stuntz stated that Acton Water District should get approval from the voters to negotiate with Applewood. Since supplying Applewood would need to be approved by the voters, and we suspect that might be the most difficult barrier to pass, that we should pass that first.

Update on Assabet Sand & Gravel's Encroachment on District Land Off High Street

Included in this evening's packet to the Commissioners is a letter from Stantec to Mr. Allen regarding the Assabet Sand & Gravel's encroachment on District land off High Street. Mr. Allen stated that originally the plan was for Mr. Maccone of Assabet Sand & Gravel to hire Stantec as a third party consultant however Stantec proposed that they continue to work on behalf of the District. In review, the findings concluded that Assabet Sand is encroaching on Zone I land owned by the District and this is in violation of the Department Environmental Protection (DEP) drinking water regulations. Mr. Allen states that Stantec does recommend that Assabet Sand cease all operations on District property including the removal of all equipment and operations that reside on Water District property and that all disturbed areas should be re-graded and vegetated. In addition Stantec recommends that a fence or other barrier be placed along the property line in this area and that Assabet Sand's stormwater system and plan be modified to eliminate all discharges onto District property.

Mr. Allen stated that he will write Mr. Maccone a letter summarizing the findings. Counselor Bassett will review the letter before it is sent to Mr. Maccone. Mr. Allen will then contact Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to discuss their assessment/requirements for a permanent solution.

Discussion of Special Legislation Associated with Investment Protocol

Mr. Dave Butler presented to the Commissioners information that they requested which can be used when they approach the State House Delegation regarding special legislation associated with investment protocol.

Mr. Butler states that by treating the W.R. Grace Pollution Settlement as a "trust fund" and investing the money received, with the investments being made under a written investment policy and as guided by an external investment manager, the Board of Water Commissioners has saved the ratepayers of the Acton Water District the sum of approximately \$4.5 million. He states that if the settlement had not been treated as a "trust fund", the ratepayers would have paid that additional amount and would have faced higher water bills in the future because there would have been no financial support being received.



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Mr. Butler stated that after much discussion, the Finance Committee concluded that the Commissioners need to decide which of the two different approaches they would like to pursue:

1. Get specific permission for Acton Water District to invest as it had, or
2. Support corrective legislation that could positively impact Acton Water District and every municipal type water supplier.

Mr. Butler reviewed with the Commissioners the proposed special legislation that he drafted. The proposal has not been reviewed by Counselor Bassett.

Other Old Business

1. Mr. Parenti informed Mr. Allen that automobiles are being illegally parked on Lawsbrook Road again. Mr. Allen will look into the matter and due to the frequent recurrence of parking, AWD simply may need to remove the parking area using the backhoe.

2. Mr. Allen provided a quick update on the web site. He stated that it was determined that AWD does not have in-house talent to do a full upgrade on the site. He and Bob Murch met with the consultant to go over their ideas and changes. They are awaiting proposal from consultant.

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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.