



Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2014

Agenda:

- A. Comments from Citizens
- B. Approve Minutes from the October 20th Meetings
- C. OLD BUSINESS:
 - 1. Proposal for Amendment to the Groundwater Protection District (GWPD) By-Law.
 - 2. Update on Concord's Acquisition of 37 Knox Trail.
- D. NEW BUSINESS:
Any agenda item(s) which did not come to the attention of the Board of Water Commissioners 48 hours prior to this meeting and were not reasonably anticipated.
- E. Executive Session: For Threatened Litigation

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2014 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Leonard Phillips.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti, Leonard Phillips (Chairman) and Stephen Stuntz
District Manager: Chris Allen
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller
District Counselor: Mary Bassett
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki
Finance Committee: Chuck Bradley
WLMAC: Barry Rosen

Joy Wieder, 25 Oneida Road (present for the Acton Beacon newspaper)

A. Comments from Citizens

Jane Link, 9 Coolidge Drive, Acton

Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners is an email that Ms. Link sent to Mr. Allen regarding brown water in her home and an abatement request. Ms. Link informed the Commissioners of all the problems with her water along with how long she has been experiencing the brown water. She stated that she has had brown water on and off in her home for the past 6 years. There is no pattern as to when her water turns brown...one day its fine and then the next day it's brown. Last Tuesday, November 4th, there was sandy residue on the bottom of her toilet and stated that this happened a few years ago and destroyed the first floor toilet. On Tuesday, 11/4/2014, she called The District two technicians were deployed to assist with troubleshooting the issue. Additionally, on Friday, 11/7, two hydrants in the vicinity of the home were flushed to remove discoloration from the water main.

Mr. Allen provided to the Commissioners scenarios leading to why she may be experiencing the brown water.



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1. On Tuesday, 11/4, the water main on Main Street was shutoff to facilitate disconnecting the abandoned water main at Hayward Road and Main Street as part of a large water main improvement. This disrupted flow patterns in her neighborhood, and may have caused some discoloration.
2. Her house sits on the intersection of Coolidge and Wilson and the road, and water main, is at a lower lying elevation than the surrounding area. Hence, sediment may settle there. .
3. Smaller diameter pipes /intricate network of pipes in the area may contribute to flow transients
4. Valve is closed on Simon Willard at John Swift and Musket at Revolutionary. These are in the direct vicinity, and may be causing flow anomalies..
5. Demand for water goes down in the fall and winter because people aren't using their irrigation systems so the water sits in the pipes a bit longer, therefore, longer residence time, and higher water age.
6. The District uses chlorine in their water to prevent microbial activity. The chlorine is a powerful oxidant and reacts with the dissolved manganese causing precipitates of manganese oxides, a solid particle, brown in color that, when stirred up, causes a brown tint to the water in varying degrees of opacity.
7. Her home is not equipped with a pressure regulating valve on the incoming water line. Thusly, the household plumbing is exposed to full system pressure, and, when heating hot water in the hot water tank, expansion may be into the water main in the roadway, hence, two-way flow through the service causing flow reversals.

Mr. Allen provided Ms. Link an overview of the South Acton Water Treatment Plant which will provide cleaner water to South Acton. This plant will be commissioned in early 2015.

Mr. Stuntz stated that any abatement process would have to be carefully thought out with limits to time and space and similar in nature to the prior abatement around the Silver Hill issue.

Mr. Allen brought up the Rules & Regulations onto the overhead screen. Mr. Parenti informed Ms. Link that The District does not abate for the issues she is complaining about per the Rules & Regulations. Mr. Allen stated that it is difficult to quantify for the lost water in her household. Mr. Stuntz stated that the Commissioners "wrestle" with the idea of abatement each time a case is presented to them and they aren't sure how to be fair in those cases.

Mr. Phillips recommends the following:

Assuming there are no indoor plumbing issues, The District is willing to pay for an in-house filtration system (roughly \$150). Mr. Parenti supports this recommendation. Mr. Allen will work with Ms. Link on this matter.

B. Approve Minutes from the October 6th Meeting.

Mr. Phillips moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2014 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

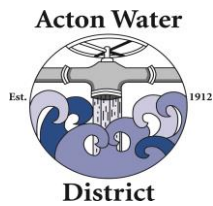
C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Proposal for Amendment to the Groundwater Protection District (GWPD) By-Law.

Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners is a copy of the final version of the Warrant Article to amend Groundwater Protection District (GWPD) By-Law. This by-law is Article 10 on the Town of Acton's Special Town Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. Mr. Parenti will attend the meeting and will present to the Town the changes made to the By-Law and why these changes were made. Mr. Allen, Mr. Mostoller and Mr. Ray Talkington of Geosphere will also be present for the meeting.

2. Update on Concord's Acquisition of 37 Knox Trail.

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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Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioner is an email from Mr. Parenti outlining the discussion at the Selectmen's meeting that he and Mr. Mostoller attended on Monday, November 3rd. Mr. Parenti informed the Commissioners that the Selectmen voted to grant the special permit which requires the installation of two monitoring wells at 37 Knox Trail. In addition, the cost of the installation will be paid for by Town of Concord, while the cost of the ongoing monitoring of the wells is the District's responsibility.

In addition, the Town of Concord's Attorney and Town Manager asked Mr. Parenti and Mr. Mostoller about the possibility of supplying water to the installation that will be built on the Grace Property in Concord. Mr. Parenti informed them that the voters of the Water District had previously voted against any expansion of service beyond the District's boundaries and would most likely oppose a request to supply water to Concord's bus facility. Mr. Parenti mentioned that we may be hearing from them again in the near future.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that he Ms. Bates, Commissioner Steve Stuntz, and David Butler from the Finance Committee will be meeting this Thursday to discuss strategic financial planning and the draft the budget for fiscal year 2016 and will then meet with the Finance Committee on Friday, November 14th to review the Draft Budget and discuss. The first draft of the budget will reviewed at Monday, November 17th open meeting.

Mr. Phillips moved to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss threatened and pending litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, and then to reconvene in open session. Mr. Stuntz and Mr. Parenti approved.

The Commissioners resumed regular session at 9:59 pm. Mr. Phillips made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.