

Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
639 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton MA
Monday, March 11, 2019

AGENDA

- A. Comments from Citizens
 - B. Approve Minutes of February 25, 2019 Meeting
 - C. OLD BUSINESS:
 - 1. Annual Meeting Preparation
Review Warrant articles and sequence of motions by Commissioners for the Annual District meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 7 PM at the Acton Public Safety Facility
 - 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: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
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Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti (Chair), Stephen Stuntz, Erika Amir-Lin

District Manager: Chris Allen

District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates

District Counsel: Mary Bassett

Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Commissioner's Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Finance Committee: Dave Butler via phone

District Moderator: Dick O'Brien

Green Acton: Lucy Kirshner, Richard Keleher

WLMAC: Barry Rosen

Acton Selectman: Janet Adachi

Acton Planning Board: Derrick Chin,

Citizen: Terra Friedrichs

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM on Monday, March 11, 2019 at the Acton Water District office by Mr. Parenti.

A. Comments from Citizens:

Derrick Chin spoke. He mentioned that he had a difficult time locating information about the District Annual Meeting on the District website and he stated that the location for the meeting in the District Water Words is incorrect. He suggests that the District should advertise the meeting better. Counselor Bassett suggested putting signs up at the Memorial Library (The usual meeting site). Mr. Allen stated that it is on the Town website and it is on the District website. Mr. Allen will post the information at the library the night of the meeting to let people know that the meeting is being held at the Public Safety

Facility. The Annual District Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20th, 7:00 PM at the Public Safety Facility, 371 Main Street, Acton.

Terra Friedrichs spoke. She attended the last West Acton Sewer Group meeting and is concerned that Mr. Parenti stated at the meeting that he did not support sewers. Mr. Parenti corrected her and stated that at that meeting he expressed his concerns about the inaccurate comments being made about how septic systems are impacting our drinking water supply. Mr. Parenti stated that the Commissioners have made no decision to this. He did not endorse or speak against sewers at meeting. If the Sewer Group is discussing impacts on water treatment and water supply they need to speak with District and not make off the cuff remarks. Ms. Friedrichs stated that if sewers are going to benefit the potential well then not having wells are at risk right now. Mr. Mostoller stated that there are statements being made about water resources being impacted. It is a general belief in town that septic systems can harm water resources. He wouldn't make decisions on that. It is not correct.

Ms. Friedrichs stated that she is concerned that the public thinks sewers are better for the environment and she would like to have a public forum to discuss this topic in a formal information session.

Lucy Kirschner spoke. She stated that at the last Green Acton meeting, Richard Kelleher was looking at the District Annual meeting warrant articles and had some questions about Article 15 regarding appropriating \$200,000 from the WR Grace Fund for engineering work on the Acton Center Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Allen stated that they are only using about 10% of the money from this account for this specific appropriation. There is still \$2.1 million in this fund; the original settlement was for \$2.5 million. Over the course of time since the settlement was acquired, the District has spent approximately \$5-million for various activities related to the protection, purification and supply of drinking water for water takers.

Ms. Kirschner asked about the WR Grace fund and if Green Acton could send a letter of support when it is up for review. Mr. Mostoller stated that in the past Green Acton has been interviewed so when the time comes Green Acton will be notified.

Terra Friedrichs asked where the new proposed water treatment plant will be located. Mr. Allen responded it will be located at off Post Office Square.

B. Approve Minutes of February 25th Meeting:

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of February 25, 2019. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Annual Meeting Preparation:

Enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners is a copy of the final Warrant Articles for the Annual District Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 20th, 7:00 PM at the Public Safety building. Mr. Allen asked the Commissioners if they had any more questions or needed clarification on any of the articles.

Mr. Parenti asked if there will be a slide presentation for the proposed new treatment plant. Mr. Allen stated that the Engineer from Wright-Pierce will be present for any questions, and there will be a static display for attendees to view and better understand the project.

Mr. Parenti asked if a copy of the budget will be available for all who attend. Ms. Bates confirmed that a copy of the budget will be included with the warrant at the night of the meeting for all attendees.

Ms. Amir-Lin asked for clarification on Article 9, appropriation of \$45k for tank rehabilitation; Mr. Allen stated that only the Nagog Hill tank is slated for rehabilitation this year. The appropriation is cumulative with two prior appropriations to fully fund the project which will take place this fall.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss at tonight's meeting.

E. Executive Session:

To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the open meeting at 8:02 PM and motioned to enter into Executive Session at 8:03 PM to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the District and to reconvene in open session. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.