



Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton MA
Monday, March 12, 2018

A. Comments from Citizens

B. Approve Minutes of February 26th Meeting

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Technology
 - Finalize application for customer alternatives to the District's AMR meter technology.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Annual Meeting Preparation
 - Annual meeting on Wednesday, March 21st at 7 PM at the Acton Memorial Library.
 - Review of Warrant articles and presentation assignments for the Commissioners.
 - Discussion of Articles 14-16, formation of the Revolving Fund for Mitigation.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti, Leonard Phillips (Chairman), Stephen Stuntz

District Manager: Chris Allen

District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates

District Counsel: Mary Bassett

Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Finance Committee: Bill Guthlein

District Moderator: Dick O'Brien

WLMAC: Barry Rosen

Citizens:

Paul Elliot, 367 Arlington Street

Carolyn Kiely, 11 Parkland Lane

Erika Amir-Lin, 534 Old Stone Brook

Terra Friedrichs, 627 Mass Ave

Mary Lynn Miller, 5 Patrick Henry

Ro Pinto, 43 Hammond

Robert Sekular, Parkland Lane

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM on Monday, March 12, 2018 at the Acton Water District office by Mr. Phillips.

A. Comments from Citizens.

Mr. Sekular stated that he was recently made aware of Littleton's change of heart regarding drawing water from Nagog Pond. The Littleton Water Department contacted Concord on February 20th and informed them that they were planning to exercise their rights to Nagog Pond Water. Are Commissioners aware of this? If not aware, we the citizens would like to hear your views on how this might impact Acton's rights. A number of us view this as

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altering the effective rights of Acton and Littleton - Littleton gets ahead of Concord and Acton. Legislative rights remain. Ms. Miller stated that she has been in touch with EPA, and was told that Littleton is planning on developing a new bedrock well and it was Concord who is suing them first. She mentioned that in her conversation that she learned that Concord is concerned that this well will threaten Nagog Pond. She believes that Acton should retain the rights to access Nagog Pond. It's time to straighten this out and not brush it under the rug any longer.

Mr. Parenti stated that it would be difficult for the Acton Water District to build its own extraction and treatment facility, since neither the Town of Acton nor the District owns property near Nagog Pond that would be suitable for this purpose. He further stated that if the District had a demonstrated need to withdraw water from Nagog, at some point in the future, that this would be best accomplished through a prior agreement with the Town of Concord that would allocate a portion of the water extracted by Concord's treatment plant to the Acton Water District.

Mr. Phillips stated that there is a real danger of overdrawing from this delicate body of water. It has to be managed and looked at. It has always been the position of the District to manage groundwater not surface water. The District has considered a deep rock well for future source of supply, if needed. He stated that the growth in Acton has tapered off; the increase is going to be minimal; and that the Acton Planning Board has set up a zoning system that limits growth by size. Mr. Stuntz stated that the District knew that Littleton had talked about a new well but was threatened with lawsuits and backed off, in the past. He states that the water supply should be regional and this is a good opportunity to work together. Ms. Kiely stated that if the District supports regionalization then that is the opposite of Article 26: Non-Binding Resolution-Great Road Water Supply (she handed everyone in the room a copy of this Article to review). Mr. Parenti stated that some of the wording in this Article surprises him. The District made requests about data and water usage, level of pond which they never received. Mr. Sekular is stunned by this comment; he assumed that the Commissioners were fine with the arrangement and he is happy to hear this comment made by Mr. Parenti. He is surprised that the Acton Board of Selectmen did not take the District's suggestions more seriously and that this Article does not reflect what the District had given to the Selectmen during the Site Plan Special Permit public hearing process.

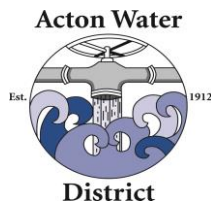
Ms. Friedrichs agrees that planning should be done regionally and cooperatively. She wanted to know where Mr. Phillips heard that growth was leveling off. Mr. Phillips mentioned that the projections we've seen come from good reliable sources. Mr. Allen stated that the District's projections are based on population in town not by housing units. We report those statistics annually, and they come directly from the Acton Town Clerk, based on Town Census results

Mr. Mostoller stated that the District has not seen the final full document and there could be other aspects that are in line with Commissioners or not in line. The full document will be revealed to Concord on March 15th.

Mr. Sekular stated that this Article will be presented to the Concord Board of Selectmen on Thursday, 3/15 and then the Acton Board of Selectmen will be discussing this Article on Monday, 3/19. Ms. Keily stated that she understands that the Commissioners are just seeing this Article now but could we get a resolution stating that this Article does not fully reflect the District's views. The Commissioners agree and have written a statement as follows:

That the March 1st, 2018 draft of the Non-binding Resolution regarding the Great Road Water Supply does not adequately reflect the position of the Acton Water District Commissioners. We have testified that while we have no immediate need for Nagog Pond as a water source, this did not mean that

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we would not consider utilizing Nagog Pond as a water source for the next 20 to 25 years or for a larger period of time. Nagog Pond is a delicate and finite resource. We support monitoring and the sharing of data on Nagog Pond's use, withdrawals and environmental impacts. We also support regionalization in allocating Nagog Pond as a water resource.

The Commissioners will attend the Town of Acton's Selectmen meeting on March 19th to let the Selectmen know that they do not support this Article the way that it is written.

B. Approve Minutes of February 26th Meeting.

Mr. Stuntz made a motion to approve the modified minutes of February 26, 2018. It was seconded by Mr. Parenti and unanimously approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Automated Meter Reading (AMR) Technology.

- Finalize application for customer alternatives to the District's AMR meter technology.

Mr. Allen outlined for the Commissioners the application for customer alternatives to the District's AMR meter technology. The District is offering customers two alternatives to the standard Badger automated meter reading (AMR) technology.

-Option 1: Badger remote automated meter reader mounted on the exterior of the house. Customer may use its own contractor for installation per District specifications and District will perform final inspection and wiring. District may install the meter at a \$100 minimum installation charge with additional installation time and/or materials charged as warranted. No additional fee per reading cycle.

-Option 2: Badger LCD exterior reader mounted on the exterior of the house. Customer may use its own contractor for installation per District specifications and District will perform final inspection and wiring. District may install the meter at a \$100 minimum installation charge with additional installation time and/or materials charged as applicable to a specific installation. If customer already has installed a Badger remote automated reader, there is an additional charge of \$300 for the badger LCD meter. Additionally, there will be a \$25 fee per reading cycle (currently quarterly).

Ms. Friedrichs would like to review the options. She sees progress as having a full mechanical reader (she wants to be able to read her own meter and give the District the numbers). Mr. Allen stated these are the options that he is proposing. Mr. Phillips believes that these options seem pretty reasonable. Ms. Bates mentioned that there are only 5 households remaining that have not responded to the request to update their meters. Ms. Friedrichs stated that if she kept the mechanical reader inside, the District installed the LCD exterior reader and if they don't collect any other information from these readers, she may agree to have the meter installed outside.

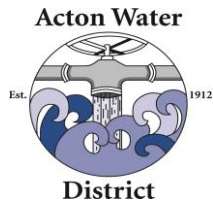
Mr. Allen stated that any customer who currently has already installed a Badger remote automated meter and wants to switch to the Badger LCD exterior manual reader will have to pay a one-time fee of \$300, the equivalent of the cost of the current AMR meter that would be replaced completely.

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the application for customer alternatives to the District's AMR meter technology. Mr. Parenti seconded and was unanimously approved.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Annual Meeting Preparation.

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- Annual meeting on Wednesday, March 21st at 7 PM at the Acton Memorial Library.
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Mr. Allen confirmed that the annual meeting is to be held on Wednesday, March 21st at 7PM at the Acton Memorial Library. Counselor Bassett handed the warrant articles to the Commissioners which includes the motions and presentation assignments for each article.

Mr. Allen mentioned that the District Treasurer came up with a written summary explaining the Revolving Fund for Mitigation article. This information will be available to the voters at the Annual Meeting. This fund is for collecting mitigation fees for new development and also change of use development that increases water demand at that site. Expenditure limits will be set annually by District vote. Developers have been paying this as needed since the Rules & Regulations were adopted on April 26, 2016. As such, those previously collected funds need to be appropriated into the Revolving Fund for use. Mr. Mostoller mentioned that this fund is in response to changes in the Water Management Act and in anticipation that the District will need more water in the future. Therefore we are charging developers for creating this additional need and offsetting the impact to the existing customer base. These funds will be utilized in accordance with the Rules & Regulations.

Counselor Bassett needs to make some changes to this Article 14-16, related to the Revolving Fund for Mitigation, and will give the Commissioners a clean set the night of the meeting.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM and it was unanimously approved.