



Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2014

- Agenda:**
- A. Comments from Citizens
 - B. Approve Minutes from the June 16th 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.
 - D. NEW BUSINESS:
 - 1. Change to Seasonal Outdoor Watering Program.
 - 2. District Manager's Contract.

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 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
Treasure/Collector: Mary Jo Bates
District Counsel: Mary Bassett
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki
Finance Committee: Charles Bradley

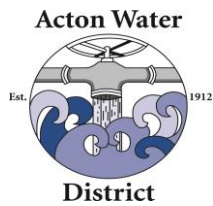
A. Comments from Citizens

Stephanie Krantz, 79 River Street, Acton
Brigid Brady, 56 River Street, Acton

Ms. Brady expressed her concerns about the brown water that has been on an ongoing basis in her household for the past 4 years. She stated that it comes on with no warning or no reason behind it. Two weeks ago they had 8 full days brown water. She stated that her neighbor had their water tested and there are high levels of manganese in the water which is very concerning. She appreciates the prompt response when she calls the District but she is very frustrated and wants to know what will the District do about it NOW?

Mr. Allen explained the history of the water quality in South Acton. He stated that the demand for water is high right now. He mentioned that the water does have some high levels of manganese. Mr. Allen informed Ms. Brady that High Street is off line at Main Street right now to support the construction project for the South Acton Water Treatment Plant, which means that the water is in an abnormal flow pattern and is looking for a different path to flow and that path includes River Street/Chadwick Street. Due to the high demand and increased velocity of water flowing through the pipes, precipitate is being suspended in the water and causes the brown discoloration.

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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Mr. Phillips reassured the ladies that by January 15, 2015, when the new South Acton Water Treatment Plant, is on-line they will start to see in an increase in cleaner water. Mr. Stuntz stated however that due to precipitate that has built up over many years in the pipes it will take a while for it to all come out so they may still experience brown water events for a period of time. With filtration and consistent flushing, eventually the severity and duration of discolored water events will lessen.

The Commissioners suggested that they look into a sediment filter system. Mr. Parenti suggested to Mr. Allen that we share the names of those folks who have had this same issue with their water quality so that the ladies can speak with them to find out exactly the system they installed and how it's working for them.

B. Approve Minutes from the June 16th Meeting.

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2014 and Mr. Parenti 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 regarding the tax abatement for 16 Knox Trail. There was a recent conference call between Mr. Allen, Counselor Bassett, Brian McMullen, Lisa Krause and Steve Barrett regarding the denied abatement.

Enclosed for Commissioners to see is a copy of the letter that Counselor Bassett wrote regarding the denied abatement and reasons why the District should not be required to pay the property tax. This letter will go to the Massachusetts Board of Assessors.

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

Mr. Allen provided an update to the Commissioners regarding the ad hoc committee that will oversee the amending of the Groundwater Protection District By-Law. Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that Mr. Mostoller recently had a meeting with Evan Carloni and Derrik Chin of the Acton Planning Board to deploy the Request for Proposal (RFP). Mr. Mostoller stated that of the four companies solicited; three proposals were submitted ranging in price from \$19K-\$29K. The group came to the conclusion that all three companies are qualified. Mr. Mostoller asked the Commissioners if they are still comfortable with moving forward. The Commissioners agreed to move forward. Mr. Mostoller will make the final decision as to whom they will use.

3. DRAFT Water Management Act Discussion and Comments.

Enclosed in tonight's packet is a copy of the final comments from the District regarding the Water Management Act Draft Regulation which was submitted to the Mass Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on July 10th.

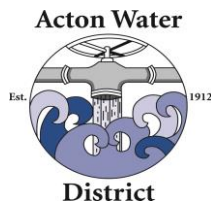
On July 24th, Mr. Allen, Counselor Bassett and Mr. Mostoller will attend a Mass Water Works Association (MWWA) meeting to learn more about possible legal recourse that public water suppliers may have.

Other Old Business:

1. Concord Public Schools and 37 Knox Trail, Acton

Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioner is a letter from Nitsch Engineering to Mike Gowing, Chair, Board of Selectman, Town of Acton regarding 37 Knox Trail in Acton. Mr. Allen pointed out to the

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Commissioners that the proposed project involves installing approximately 610 square feet of additional new pavement to expand the existing site driveway to reconfigure the ingress/egress to the property for vehicles the size of school buses. Concord Public Schools will then be able to park 5 buses and 5 bus driver's cars in this parking lot. Mr. Allen stated that the process has begun and there is little that the District can do to stop it, given the current zoning bylaws in Acton.

2. WR Grace Superfund

Mr. Mostoller updated the Commissioners on the WR Grace Superfund site. He stated that the District received a request for an interview to express their concerns, comments, overall impressions, and to learn about the site clean-up. Mr. Mostoller asked the Commissioners to email him with any comments/concerns that they may have, and that he will then share those concerns with the site management.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Change to Seasonal Outdoor Watering Program.

On July 1st Mr. Allen implemented a one day per week lawn watering program for the Town of Acton. Prior to this, staff had been driving around neighborhoods scouting out offenders. No monetary fines have been issued only reminders have been mailed to the violators. Mr. Mostoller noted a high number of newer residents were violating the restrictions.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners of four sandwich boards that highlight the lawn watering program. These sandwich boards are in key locations around town and are moved around periodically. During the first week of the modified program, approximately 15 additional signs were posted in neighborhoods where many customers irrigate their lawns. There is also information posted on the District's and Town of Acton's website.

Mr. Allen also shared with the Commissioners an email from a Mr. George Rebovich, Jr (enclosed in tonight's packet) regarding his concerns about water conservation in Town. The Commissioners all agreed that Mr. Allen's response was very well thought-out and thorough.

2. District Manager's Contract

Mr. Parenti stated that he isn't familiar with how Mr. Allen's salary relates to others in same position state-wide. Mr. Stuntz stated that salary increase of 3% is consistent with other industries. Mr. Allen stated that Massachusetts Water Works Association(MWWA), recently completed a salary survey of Public Water Suppliers in Massachusetts using other water employees and he will request a copy and will share that information with the Commissioners.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to accept the District Manager's contract for another three years. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to adjourn the Board of Water Commissioners meeting at 9:30 p.m. and was unanimously approved.