

Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2016

AGENDA:

A. Comments from Citizens

B. Approve Minutes of September 12th Meeting

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Nuclear Metals Superfund Site

Status of test pumping and sample analysis

Short-term agreement extension & long-term access agreement discussion

2. Town of Concord's Proposal to Construct a New Treatment Plant at Nagog Pond

Questions/citizen concerns forwarded from Acton Selectmen

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Solar Project for Knox Trail & Lawsbrook Road

Grant from state of Massachusetts for technical assistance

Request for Response (RFR) for professional assistance

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm on Monday, October 17, 2016 at the Acton Water District office by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Stephen Stuntz (Chairman), Ronald Parenti, Leonard Phillips

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

WLMAC: Barry Rosen

Citizen: Terra Friedrich

A. Comments from Citizens:

Ms. Friedrich expressed her concern about giving her private information to Water Smart, the contractor that the District is using to provide water usage reports to customers. She wants to opt-out but there isn't an easy way of opting-out so Mr. Allen will have her opted out directly with the provider.

Ms. Friedrich mentioned that she has been attending the Acton Magic Climate Resilient Group, who are assessing the concept of sustainable growth. She is inviting the District to take part. The Group is overseen by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission.

Ms. Friedrich has concerns about chromium 6. She stated that she forwarded information onto Mr. Mostoller about her concerns and findings. Mr. Mostoller stated that he is not concerned because the town is well below the mandated threshold.

Ms. Friedrich recently had a new boiler installed and the plumber had to flush out 50-gallons of water in order to install the new system. She is concerned that somehow this would impact the water ban. Mr.

Allen stated that the water ban is only in effect for outside watering.

Ms. Friedrich is concerned about herbicides being used to get rid of poison ivy in town. Mr. Allen informed her that the District mechanically removes the poison ivy. She urges Mr. Mostoller to review the

town's vegetation management plan and to make sure that the town continues to not use herbicides in the Zones.

Approve Minutes from September 12th Meeting:

Mr. Phillips noted one small change to minutes. Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the modified minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2016, Mr. Parenti seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Nuclear Metals Superfund Site

Status of test pumping and sample analysis: The graph that is enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioner's shows various rates at which the de maximis pumped the Extraction Well for testing. The sustainable rate is between 23 - 25 GPM. Mr. Allen stated that de maximis believes that they can get 25 GPM from extraction well. The highest extraction rate during the test was 30 GPM, and that was not sustainable. There were no observed impacts on Assabet 1A while conducting the pump test.

Short-term agreement extension & long-term access agreement discussion: The short-term agreement has been extended to now expire on January 15, 2017. The agreement was signed by de maximis on September 28, 2016. Discussion of long term agreement for a 30 year period access for treatment (rental). Counselor Bassett reached out to Gayle Mann and she will take a look at the rental value for a portion of the parcel for that duration and provide the District with an appraisal. Mr. Stuntz suggests that we are leasing the land as long as something is being done at site so it should be reviewed every 5 years in case hands change. Mr. Rosen wants to know if there is anything in the agreement stating if something detrimental happens to water or land that we can stop them? Counselor Bassett stated that there is something in the short term lease. Mr. Stuntz stated that there should be an immediate cease and desist. Mr. Rosen commented stating that it's good to protect ourselves. Ms. Friedrich asked the Commissioners if the District is paying a consultant or relying on others. Mr. Stuntz informed her that the District has their own paid consultant. She would like to know if information is available about the Nuclear Metals Site and Mr. Mostoller directed her to NMIsite.org.

2. Town of Concord's Proposal to Construct a New Treatment Plant at Nagog Pond

Questions/citizen concerns forwarded from Acton Selectmen: Mr. Allen received a list of citizens concerns from the Selectmen and these questions are enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners. Mr. Allen asked the Commissioners if they would they would like to provide input on these questions. These concerns came up at public hearings. Mr. Allen and Mr. Mostoller have drafted a response to these questions. Mr. Allen will attend next public hearing on 11/1/16 where there will be more discussions on this topic. Mr. Allen stated that Concord's withdrawal from Nagog Pond has no direct impact on our sources. Mr. Phillips commented on question 2 which is "has the Acton Water District completed an existing build out analysis for the Town?" His comment to that is that Acton Water District does not have responsibility for build-out analysis and it is not in our charter to do that. Mr. Parenti reiterated that Concord's withdrawal from Nagog Pond does not impact our groundwater sources. Overall the Commissioners have no problem with what has been written by Mr. Allen and Mr. Mostoller. Mr. Allen will circulate a draft of the response memo for Commissioners' edits but not for discussion. If Commissioners have comments, they should respond individually to Mr. Allen. The memo can be finalized in open session at the next scheduled meeting on Monday, October 31st.

Other Old Business:

Drought condition/declining groundwater levels: Mr. Parenti asked if there were anyway to take the measurements that come out of test well and turn those into capacity? Mr. Mostoller stated that anything can be done with time and resources but reality is the data may not provide meaningful information. Mr. Parenti stated that the chart gives some information but not enough. Mr. Mostoller responded by stating that most modeled aquifers in MA have flaws in them and that the quantity of water

in the ground is one piece of the drought. There are lots of other pieces that are factored in to measure a water drought/restriction.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the Drought Task force met and that there has been no change in drought conditions. He also stated that the District did an abbreviated fall flushing and that there were minimal complaints during flushing.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Solar Project for Knox Trail & Lawsbrook Road

The District was awarded a grant from state of Massachusetts for technical assistance: Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the District applied for grant funding of \$12,500 to enlist professional assistance developing solar PV arrays on land owned by the District at 16 Knox Trail and 62 Lawsbrook Road. The District was notified on 9/21/16 that the award was approved.

Request for Response (RFR) for professional assistance: enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners is a copy of the Request for Response for professional services associated with a third party solar installation on District land that will be distributed to firms versed in these applications. The District is accepting responses for this RFR until November 7, 2016.

Mr. Stuntz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm and it was unanimously approved.

Next District Meeting:

Monday, October 31st at 7:30 pm