



Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
P.O. BOX 953
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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2013

- Agenda:**
- A. Comments from Citizens
 - B. Approve Minutes of November 4th meeting
 - C. OLD BUSINESS:
 - 1. Discussion of the Town of Concord's Proposed Land Acquisition on Knox Trail in Acton.
 - 2. Update on Hayward Road & Stow Street Water Main Improvement.
 - 3. Update on South Acton Water Treatment Plant Project.
 - 4. Discussion of the District's Annual Report.
 - D. NEW BUSINESS:
 - 1. No New Business at the Time this Agenda was Posted.

The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2013 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti, Leonard Phillips, and Stephen Stuntz (Chairman)
District Manager: Chris Allen
Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates
District Counselor: Mary Bassett
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki
Finance Committee Member(s): David Butler
WLMAC: Barry Rosen, Paul Malchodi, Chuck Olmstead
Moderator: Richard O'Brien

Also in attendance: Mike Webster, GeoInsight and Johanna Boynton, Concord School Committee

WLMAC jointly commenced at tonight's meeting.

A. Comments from Citizens

No comments from citizens this evening.

B. Approval of Minutes from November 4th Meetings

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on November 4, 2013 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.



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C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Town of Concord's Proposed Land Acquisition on Knox Trail in Acton.

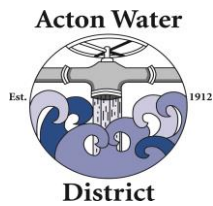
Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners are emails from the District, Lisa Bergen of Transportation Advisory Committee regarding Acton groundwater protection zoning, and Concord DPW, in addition a copy of the definitions of what Zone I, II & III from the Department of Environmental Protection, a copy Town of Acton's zoning by-law, and a map outlining the Knox Trail land. Mr. Allen stated that he and Mr. Parenti attended a meeting on Tuesday, November 12th between Acton and Concord's town officials regarding the proposed Knox Trail purchase. The following was noted from the meeting: Concord wants to proceed with Article 1 at their Special Town Meeting on December 4th (to purchase land on Knox Trail), Concord offered to restrict the property to parking and maintenance only (refueling to be done elsewhere); in addition to buses being parked on property there is potential to park DPW vehicles as well, and they assured the Town of Acton and Water District that they would put appropriate controls and safeguards to help reduce the impacts of any fluid spillage. Mr. Allen contacted Concord DPW Director to elaborate on what type of DPW vehicles would be parked on the site and the Director was not sure.

Mr. Allen directed the attendees to the slide showing a map of where the Knox Trail parcel is located (a 7 acre parcel) which is Groundwater Protection District Zone III. Per the bylaw zoning map, Knox Trail properties are zoned as a Technology District which allows use for transportation services (i.e. park buses) however use as a repair facility for trucks, business, construction vehicles and industrial equipment is prohibited.

Mr. Phillips stated that in his 30 years as Commissioner this is the most ridiculous proposal he has ever heard of. To want to park 36 buses on land that has a history of hazardous materials being in the groundwater is unacceptable and irresponsible. It's inappropriate, illegal, dangerous and risky. The risk is that if there is a fuel spill it will cost millions of dollars to clean-up. He states that as a Commissioner this proposal is unacceptable and as citizen of Acton very troubled by it. Permits don't protect water. A spill could shut-down our wells. Zone III is a recharge area for Zone II. He stated that both Acton and Concord want to be good stewards of our natural resources. Mr. Phillips says, "No" to land acquisition. He hopes the Town of Concord takes his comments seriously and that they reconsider this purchase.

Mr. Parenti stated that his views are more liberal. He is less bothered by the parking of buses. He learned that the Town is looking to park DPW vehicles and use as a facility to maintain these vehicles. This he is troubled by. He states that there is room for compromise. He flatly disapproves of any maintenance, refueling and storage of gasoline on this property. He states that Concord has been looking at this area for quite some time. They had many hearings and the District is just hearing about it. Initially heard about parking just buses but now learning of DPW vehicles too. We need more time to consider and from the District's perspective there is too much to think over.

Mr. Stuntz stated that we know what happens when there are gas spills. No Board can commit to what another Board will do. We need to strengthen the by-law in Zone III. His two concerns are accidents/spills and future use on property.



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Ms. Boynton, of the Concord School Committee addressed the Commissioners. She stated that she has much respect for what the Board is saying and understands their concerns. She didn't realize that this parcel of land is in such a sensitive area. The Town of Concord will work toward something agreeable looking at best practices. Concord wants to be good stewards of the land. She stated that their current lease with Billerica is up in 18 months. This parcel abuts WR Grace land that Concord wants to purchase for a possible future solar array installation.

Mr. Webster, of GeoInsight addressed the Commissioners. He stated that there has been a lot of hydrogeology involved in this area. It has been studied for a long time regarding which way the groundwater flows and analysis has shown that the water flow does not flow into Zone 2. Mr. Phillips read to the group the Department of Environmental Protection's definition of a Zone III – Zone III means that land area beyond the area of Zone II from which surface water and groundwater drain into Zone II. Mr. Webster reiterated that from all the analysis done in this area the water is not draining into Zone II. Mr. Parenti asked Mr. Webster what is opinion is what storing fuel on the site. Mr. Webster said he doesn't see it being an issue as long as the tanks are above ground. Towns are more conscientious operators than outside contractors. Towns use best management practices and safeguards when it comes to storing fuel. They typically use the most state-of-the-art systems.

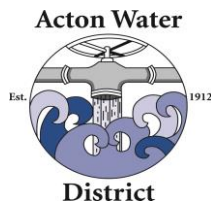
Mr. Parenti will be the main contact with the Town of Concord. He will draft a letter to Concord's Town Manager explaining that the Commissioners and District were just made aware of this land acquisition less than one month ago and they have not had enough time to think about it; strongly recommend that they limit using the parcel of land to storing buses only; that there is no refueling or maintenance on property; and will support this acquisition only if there is a compromise and formal written agreement with the Town of Concord limiting and controlling the happenings on the property now and in future.

2. Update on Hayward Road & Stow Street Water Main Improvement.

Mr. Allen provided an update to the Commissioners on the Hayward Road and Stow Street water main improvements. He informed them that newly installed water main on Hayward Road is now in-service. The trench cap pavement was installed but there are some problems. The contractor is committed to repairing these problems prior to winter weather setting in. As for Stow Street, Onyx has installed 1,000 linear feet with 1,300 feet to still be installed. The progress is going well although there was a water main break on Friday that was caused by Onyx when the excavator contacted the existing main. An update on the schedule will be provided at the next progress meeting on Thursday, December 4th.

3. Update on South Acton Water Treatment Plant Project.

Mr. Allen provided an update to the Commissioners on the South Acton Water Treatment Plant project. He informed the Commissioners that the contractor is ready to pour concrete for the foundation but they are still waiting for the building permit. The Zoning Enforcement Officer stated that the height of the aeration towers is not in compliance and this is what is causing the delay in the permit. Mr. Allen stated that the contractor may end up applying for a foundation permit so that there is no delay in pouring concrete especially since the weather is getting colder. Mr. Allen stated that the



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School Street directional drilling was done today and is making good progress in the installation of the water main. There was one issue regarding the contractor hitting a gas line. Mr. Allen found out about late today and doesn't have all the details.

4. Discussion of the District's Annual Report.

There were some questions at the last Commissioners meeting regarding whether the full annual audit report needs to be included in the annual report or if an Executive Summary, or Letter to Management, would suffice. Counselor Bassett did the research and provided this information in a memo which is enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners. The entire audit report must be included. How to distribute the report? Printing is expensive. Can we just print postcard directing customers to website where the full annual report including financials will be posted? No on the postcard. Instead they will print a four-page Water Words which will contain the warrant articles and a link to website where customers will find a PDF of the full annual report and financials. They will print full copies of the annual report for public record.

Other Old Business:

1. Counselor Bassett is pulling together all the Executive Summary minutes regarding the Assabet Sand & Gravel lawsuit. She asked the Commissioners to approve the minutes from February 11 and March 20, 2013. These minutes are for release since the case has been dismissed.
2. Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the District received their first disbursement from SRF for the South Acton Water Treatment Plant project and will pay Waterline and JP Cardillo their first installment.
3. Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the District website is being redesigned. The draft of screenshots is now available and he will have Bob Murch, IT/MIS Coordinator, send PDFs to the Commissioners for their review and comments. He stated that they are using an outside consultant for redesign.

D. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business at the time the agenda was posted.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to adjourn 9:15 p.m. and was unanimously approved.