

Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

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Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton MA
Monday, April 9, 2018

A. Annual Appointments and Board Realignment

B. Comments from Citizens

C. Approve Minutes of March 26th Meeting

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update from Acton Town Meeting held on Monday, 4/2 & Tuesday, 4/3.
 - Status of Article 26 – “Great Road Water Supply” and result from Town Meeting vote for the Non-binding Resolution

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss Email from Residents Regarding Digitizing Historical Documents and Access to Data.
2. Discussion of Workshop Related to Water Resource Study.

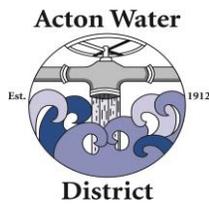
Present at Tonight’s Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti (Chairman), Stephen Stuntz, Erika Amir-Lin
District Manager: Chris Allen
District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates
District Counsel: Mary Bassett
District IT: Bob Murch
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki
Finance Committee: Bill Guthlein
District Moderator: Dick O’Brien
WLMAC: Barry Rosen & John Cipar
District Clerk: William Stanford

Acton Citizens:

Derrick Chin, 14 Heald Road (Planning Board Liaison to the District)
Carolyn Kiely
Robert Sekular, Parkland Lane
Lucy Kirshner (Green Acton)

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM on Monday, April 9, 2018 at the Acton Water District office by Mr. Parenti.



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A. Annual Appointments and Board Realignment

Mr. Stanford swore in elected officials Ms. Erika Amir-Lin as the new Commissioner and Mr. Richard O'Brien as Moderator.

Mr. Parenti moved to appoint the following to the Water Supply District of Acton. Mr. Stuntz seconded and it was unanimously approved.

District Counsel: Mary Bassett
District Auditor: Maureen Mara
District Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates
District Assistant Treasurer: Chris Allen
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Mr. Stanford swore in all of the appointed officials.

Mr. O'Brien appointed Mr. William Guthlein as Finance Committee member and Mr. Stafford swore him in.

Mr. Stunz moved to nominate Mr. Parenti as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded and it was unanimously approved.

B. Comments from Citizens

Mr. Sekular expressed his gratitude for Mr. Phillips many years as Commissioner and wanted to thank him on behalf of the residents of Acton. "He did a terrific job!" The Town doesn't give enough thanks to the folks that serve. Mr. Parenti mentioned that Mr. Phillips was elected in 1982 and served 11 terms. And he noted that the District is 100 years old and that Ms. Amir-Lin is the first female Commissioner to serve.

C. Approve Minutes of March 26th Meeting

Mr. Parenti moved to accept the modified minutes of March 26th. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

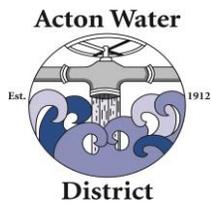
D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update from Acton Town Meeting held on Monday, 4/2 & Tuesday, 4/3.

- Status of Article 26 --"Great Road Water Supply" and result from Town Meeting vote for the Non-binding Resolution

Mr. Allen informed the Board that Article 26 did not pass at the Acton Town Meeting. Mr. Parenti stated that Acton residents have been asking him about the agreement regarding rights; not sure direction Town of Acton will take; it's time to get serious about going to the Legislature and getting a clarification of the Acts of 1884. He mentioned that Littleton is heading in that direction. Not sure what Acton Board of Selectmen will do but would like to see District support that effort.

Mr. Parenti would like to know the reason for Concord wanting to rest all their wells; what is the purpose for it; it would be good to hear from them directly. Mr. Sekular mentioned that he was recently in Concord and someone from the Town of Concord approached him and said that according to their public works people they contacted the Acton Water District and the District wouldn't cooperate with them. Mr. Sekular knows that this statement is not accurate. He believes that Concord is under the impression that the Acton Water District is the "Bad guys". Mr. Parenti stated that it is a very frustrating situation and it would be good for all of us to sit down and talk.



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Mr. Parenti stated that if the District ever got into an emergency situation we could invoke those rights under the Act of 1884. Mr. Mostoller mentioned that declaring a state of water supply emergency would change what we could do with our existing sources, lessen some regulatory constraints and streamline accessing water from neighboring sources. That is the stop gap measure if there is an unforeseeable loss. Some options if needed: Acting on the Act of 1884 rights, purchasing water from a neighbor, developing new sources, or expanding our treatment plant technologies.

Mr. Rosen asked has the District thought about when they are going to service the Acton residents and businesses along Route 2A. Mr. Allen mentioned that the District estimates that installing a new main along Route 2A will cost \$3.5-\$7 million, as was stated in Article 26 on the Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Allen will get a formal proposal from the engineering consultant to codify the projected amount.

Other Old Business:

1. Update on Solar Arrays Project: Mr. Allen provided an update to the Commissioners stating that Gro Solar is currently working with the Acton Planning Department regarding the permitting of the arrays. He stated that Knox Trail is OK; Lawsbrook Road array is larger, is where the proposed land lease is located and is more complex; the battery storage aspect is what is causing some pause among Town officials due to the Hazardous Material Bylaw. Mr. Allen and Gro Solar are working on a letter to the Town Planner explaining how the arrays can be designated "Municipal" under the Bylaw. The goal is to have the Knox Trail array commissioned by the end of 2018, and the Lawsbrook array up and running by spring 2019.

As for the Micro grid feasibility study, they are signing the commitment letter of acceptance for the grant. The grant is for \$75,000. The commitment letter is due this Friday, 4/13/18.

2. Automated Meter Reader (AMR) technology upgrade: Ms. Bates mentioned that there are only 2 households left to change out their meter.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

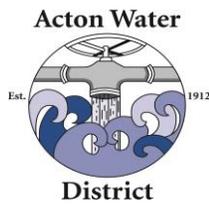
1. Discuss Email from Residents Regarding Digitizing Historical Documents and Access to Data.

Mr. Parenti mentioned that Kim Kastens and Ron Beck initiated a conversation via email regarding digitizing historical documents and being able to access certain data. Mr. Rosen stated that what he understood is that Ms. Kastens was looking for pumping information from each of our well sources. She ended up communicating via email directly with Bob Murch. Mr. Murch mentioned that this type of data is stored in a proprietary database and would need a specific request to extract that information. Mr. Parenti stated that we would need to know what people are interested in seeing from this data, other reports, and how to store it. Related to historical publications, there are lots of documents available on the District website under "About Us" and "Publications" links.

Mr. Allen stated that the updated Master Plan will be digitized and posted onto the District website in this area.

2. Discussion of Workshop Related to Water Resource Study.

Mr. Allen stated that the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) made a presentation to the Acton Board of Selectmen (BOS) regarding a water resource study at their meeting on Monday, March 5th. The BOS agreed that WRAC should put a workshop together. Mr. Mostoller asked to put this on the agenda for tonight and would like the Commissioners' input on what they think should be the overarching goal of the workshop, and who should participate. He mentioned that the workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held on Saturday, September 22nd.



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Mr. Rosen suggested that at least one Commissioner have a seat at the table which also means contributing monetarily to the study. He stated that the first phase of the study is projected to cost \$10K-\$20K and that the second phase is projected to cost \$200K-\$300K. The second phase will require bringing in a consultant.

Mr. Sekular stated that he hopes that what comes out of this workshop is that there will be greater communication and cooperation between the District and Town of Acton Selectmen and other Town departments.

Mr. Rosen mentioned that the WRAC will have their regular meeting on Wednesday and plan to discuss who the stake holders are and who should attend this workshop. Currently, thinking of the following: at least one Commissioner, certain folks from the Water District staff, Acton Town Officials, Acton Planning and Zoning, Developer, Realtor, Garden Club, WLMAC, maybe a State Representative of the local District.

Mr. Mostoller suggested to the Commissioners to come with suggestions of water resources, financial, and development related scenarios that would drive the Board of Selectmen to think about what would be involved and the possible implications.

Mr. Parenti suggested that an agenda be made and that presentations be made by certain people at this workshop.

Mr. Mostoller asked the Commissioners to think about what they would like to see this workshop be focused on. Since the District has a seat on the WRAC, it represents our opportunity help frame the conversation. Mr. Parenti gave one example – at what point does Town get involved in exceeding withdrawal limits/restricting town growth.

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM and it was unanimously approved.