

Board of Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes  
Acton Water District  
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton MA  
Monday, June 1, 2020

AGENDA

A. Comments from Citizens

B. Approve Minutes of May 18, 2020

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually
2. Discussion of the upcoming Special District Meeting and Annual District Meeting  
➤ Scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020 @ 6:30 PM and 7 PM, respectively
3. Town of Acton Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing for 960-962 Main Street
4. Update on system-wide source sampling for Per- & Poly-Fluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances

NEW BUSINESS:

Any agenda item(s) which did not come to the attention of the Board of Water Commissioners 48 hours prior to this meeting and were not reasonably anticipated

Present at Today's Meeting:

Commissioners: Stephen Stuntz (Chair), Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen

District Manager: Chris Allen

District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates

District Counsel: Mary Bassett

Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Finance Committee: Dave Butler, Bill Guthlein

Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

District Moderator: Dick O'Brien

Citizen: Kim Kastens (representing Green Acton); David Martin; Chakra; Ashish Kumar

Due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home order by Governor Charles Baker, the Board of Water Commissioners meeting was not held at the Acton Water District office instead the meeting was held via a video conference using Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM on Monday, June 1, 2020 by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

**A. Comments from Citizens:**

No comments.

**B. Approve Minutes of Meetings of May 18th:**

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

## **C. OLD BUSINESS:**

### *1. Appoint One Commissioner to Approve Warrants while Conducting Meetings Virtually.*

Ms. Amir-Lin moved to appoint Mr. Stuntz as the Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually. Mr. Rosen seconded, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

### *2. Discussion of the Upcoming Special District Meeting and Annual District Meeting*

➤ Scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020 @ 6:30 PM and 7 PM, respectively

Mr. Allen stated that due to Governor Baker's order of less than 10 people gathered means the District cannot hold these meetings at the Public Safety Facility. He recommends holding the meetings outside on the grounds of the Water District.

Ms. Amir-Lin asked if people will be allowed to use the restroom inside the building. Mr. Allen confirmed that the restroom will be available. Ms. Amir-Lin also asked if the Moderator will be using a microphone. Mr. Allen confirmed that all necessary equipment has been ordered (i.e. microphone, podium, speakers, etc.).

Mr. Rosen suggests that if the weather doesn't cooperate to set a rain date and an alternate rain date. Counselor Bassett recommends setting the meeting date for June 8 and state that rain dates will be on June 9 or June 10th, but we'd still be required to open the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>, even if it is raining, to postpone it to the selected rain date.

Kim Kastens - she appreciates the effort that the District is putting into getting this meeting set-up. She asked if there will there be chairs for people to sit. Mr. Allen confirmed that chairs will be available and will be set up 6 ft apart for social distancing protocols. He also mentioned that the building is lit and will have a light stand set-up in case it is needed.

Mr. Allen had a recent conversation with the Ms. Bates, the District Moderator and Counselor Bassett about combining the first seven articles into a consent agenda, since these are appropriations come out of Surplus revenue, and, traditionally, are unanimously approved. This will help move the meeting along and save some time. Counselor Bassett stated that the Moderator oversees the conduct of the meeting and he can announce the change as a "consent agenda" The Moderator presents Articles 7 through 14 as a consent calendar in order to shorten the length of the meeting, for safety reason, because of the COVID-19 emergency. Mr. Stuntz asked Counselor Bassett to write-up the script for Mr. O'Brien regarding the change.

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the combining of Articles 7 through 14 into one main appropriation article. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the District Manager's recommendation of holding the Special District Meeting and Annual District Meeting outside on the grounds of the District. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Mr. Allen is proposing to start the Annual Meeting immediately after the Special District Meeting has ended. Commissioners all agree to this. Mr. Allen will re-word the public notice to state that "Annual meeting to immediately follow at the conclusion of the Special meeting" without a set time.

### *3. Town of Acton Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing for 960-962 Main Street.*

Mr. Allen provided an update to the Commissioners regarding the Town of Acton Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing for 960-962 Main Street. The current owner of this property is the Kennedy livestock. In a follow up with Environmental Manager the Acton Town Planner deemed the land “existing use” but the abutters state it is “new use” and the District agrees with the abutters. The abutters filed an appeal with ZBA. The District was notified of the appeal and will provide comments. The District believes that the Town Planner’s conclusions are inaccurate; the current land use is not in compliance with zoning.

The comments are due on June 2nd. The Appeal hearing to be held on July 7th.

### *4. Update on System-Wide Source Sampling for Per- & Poly-Fluoroalkyl (PFAS) Ssubstances.*

Mr. Mostoller provided an update to the Commissioners regarding the system-wide source sampling for Per- & Poly-Fluoroalkyl (PFAS) Substances. He stated that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is still reviewing the last round of data. He spoke with Marielle Stone of MassDEP and they had to send data to Boston for further review. Marielle Stone stated that the numbers in question don’t vary much and she feels confident about the results. All wells in Town have been sampled.

Mr. Mostoller mentioned that the District would like to include the PFAS public notice with the consumer confidence report. We are working on drafting that notice. He is hoping MassDEP answers his questions by the end of next week so that the notice can be finalized. The notice is scheduled to be mailed on June 15th.

Mr. Mostoller mentioned that MassDEP is interested in our plans moving forward and would like the District to keep them updated on our operational plans and changes to keep PFAS numbers below 20 parts per trillion.

The Assabet 1A Well had been off for service because it had the highest concentration levels but that is not the case anymore, so it has been put back on at a lower rate. The Kennedy Wells/North Acton Water Treatment Plant (NAWTP) is our highest concentration source and is our major area of concern. It’s currently offline due to maintenance so we can’t do anything with it right now.

Mr. Mostoller mentioned that we will do additional sampling as we head into new quarter.

Ms. Amir-Line inquired as to how are customers being notified of the increased water restrictions. Mr. Allen stated via an email blast and then next week a reverse CTY phone call in addition to new lawn signs around town. Ms. Amir-Lin suggested that we ask if the Town can post on their website as they post continuous updates about things happening in town. Mr. Allen will send a request and ask them to post.

Mr. Allen stated that the District implemented a complete water ban on lawn irrigation due to a sequential decline in water storage levels. He reached out to Littleton and Maynard about interconnecting. Maynard allowed the interconnection but, since the system static pressures where about equal, no water flowed so that was shut down. He mentioned that the District had Operators out on patrols today and found 21 customers who were watering the subsequent day. The District Administration will contact those customers to let them know of the ban. Mr. Stuntz thought the message was very clear in the email communication.

Kim Kastens — how long will the ban be in effect? Mr. Allen responded that it depends on the weather and if we get rain, and how we are able to replenish storage with limited capacity.

Chakra — he was not aware of these discussions/meetings but finds it very informative. He inquired as to what the long-term plan is to mitigate the water ban. Mr. Allen stated that it depends on capacity and when all our wells are up and running. He stated that by state regulations we must put the annual, calendar triggered program into place. Long term plans are looking for new sources, and construction of a new water treatment facility which help us to utilize our existing capacity to its fullest extent. Chakra asked about private wells. Mr. Mostoller stated that regarding private wells, you need to talk to Board of Health.

Chakra - asked about the water ban penalty/fines - he was looking at similar bans from other towns and they have a tiered structure. Since the ban came out last night, do you give a fine still to those people that violated the ban this morning. Mr. Allen stated that no they will not be fined but we will provide notification unless it's a habitual offender. The District uses a fine tiered structure of \$50 for first offense, \$100 for the second and \$200 for the third. Thereafter, each incident will warrant a \$200 fine.

Mr. Rosen inquired as to whether the District has stopped water flushing or not. Mr. Allen reported that yes, flushing was completed in April. Mr. Rosen inquired about the Clapp-Whitcomb well and when the water is sampled is it the raw water or treated water. Mr. Mostoller explained that these wells have been sampled and we are getting good results with the Activated Carbon filtration.

Mr. Guthlein inquired as to what the financial impact will be with the water ban. Ms. Bates stated that it is too soon to know.

*Other Old Business:*

District Manager contract expires June 30th - this was not put on the agenda today so it will put on the next agenda to vote on.

*Mr. Rosen moved to adjourn the open meeting at 4:55 PM. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.*