

Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2013

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- Agenda:**
- A. Comments from Citizens
 - B. Approve Minutes of October 7th meeting
 - C. OLD BUSINESS:
 - 1. Update on Hayward Road & Stow Street Water Main Improvement.
 - 2. Update on Assabet Sand & Gravel Property Acquisition.
 - 3. Discussion of Financial Planning and Input for Upcoming Working Session on October 24th.
 - D. NEW BUSINESS:
 - 1. Update on Seasonal Flushing and Water Quality Issues.
 - 2. Execute Contracts for the South Acton Water Treatment Plant with Waterline Industries for Plant Construction and JP Cardillo for the Water Main Installation.

The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 2013 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

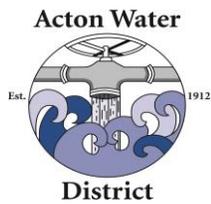
Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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, William Guthlein, and Charles Bradley
WLMAC: Barry Rosen

A. Comments from Citizens

Jeffrey Fishman, 159 Prospect Street
Bob Condon, 2 Martin Street
Claire Siska, 14 Stow Street
Laura Fay, 83 Stow Street
Michelle Kilpatrick, 7 Prescott Road
Pam Hoodes, 36 Martin Street
Thaddeus Nieduzak, 6 Beacon Street

Mr. Condon brought his water filter in to show the group that how dirty the filter got in just 2 months. He stated that the filter should last anywhere from 3-6 months. He stated that the water quality coming into his home has progressively gotten worse these past 6 months. He mentioned that when he takes the filter out to replace it he typically dumps the contents into a bucket and he notices that there is clumps and coagulation of matter. Mr. Mostoller stated that this is the iron and manganese which causes this.



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Ms. Kilpatrick brought in a sample of the brown water coming from her tap. She stated that this is what her water has been looking like all summer and through the fall. She stated that she called the District office on Saturday (Columbus Day weekend) and learned that there was a water main break at Littlefield Road. Mr. Allen also mentioned that some of the other causes of the discolored water include the flushing of the hydrants in the South/West Acton area, the hydrant hook-up for the construction at the South Acton train station, and the paving of Rte. 2. She stated that she never receives the 911 reverse calls.

Ms. Siska doesn't want to jump to any conclusions that it is the States fault that their neighborhoods are getting the brown, dirty water. She would like to know what the correlation is between the brown water they get and the flushing of the hydrants. Mr. Allen explained that when the pipes are flushed the sediment (which contains the precipitates of iron and manganese) on the interior pipe walls gets stirred up and suspended in the water and this causes the brown discoloration.

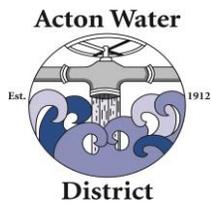
Ms. Fay stated that this past month her water has been horrible and it reached the critical point about a month ago. Mr. Allen stated that the pumping of water for the train station is not necessarily the main problem. The contractors have been using that hydrant since spring. Ms. Fay stated that it was switch and they are using a different hydrant now. Mr. Allen doesn't know when the switch happened. The District's Superintendent of Operations has been in close contact with the contractor, McCourt Construction, and most likely would have that answer.

Mr. Fishman stated that when he called over Columbus Day weekend, Jamie took call and did a great job in answering his questions. His questions were: why do the employees of the District go home on Friday when customers are having water issues? He feels that the District is fiscally responsible for all the things they have to pay for when they can't use their water at home (i.e. laundry mat, bottled water, dinner out because they can't cook). He wants to know the standard operating procedures for the District. Mr. Allen stated that on Friday when employees left there were no current issues, except for some calls about flushing, which typically are expected during this time of year. He stated that property taxes do not benefit the District. Mr. Fishman invited Mr. Allen to the next board meeting of his complex where he lives. Mr. Allen will attend if calendar permits.

Mr. Phillips sympathizes with the group of citizens. He explains that he is a resident facing similar water quality issues. He proceeded to explain with the residents that the fluid flow mechanics of the 135 miles of pipes is not intuitive and is a very complex system. The District uses Water CAD for points of reference in the system, and theoretical analysis of system parameters. He stated that the complexity of pipe and leakages through hydrants and breaks is extremely complex. He asks that residents to not jump to any conclusions based on the recent activity. The District is looking at the system and trying to determine where the problems lie.

Mr. Stuntz proceeded to state that the District and Commissioners are well aware of the issues the residents face in the South/West Acton area and that is why the District is constructing a new water treatment plant. He stated that the plant will be on-line in about one year. The residents seem to be pleased to hear this but are still concerned that they have to deal with discolored water for another year.

Mr. Condon is concerned that there may be some break deep in system because of his water looking oily. Mr. Mostoller stated that it's the iron bacteria in the water and it is harmless. He stated that every two weeks they test water for Total Coliform bacteria, an indicator group of bacteria in water supplies. They test 13 distribution points and 6-7 entry points into distribution system. Additionally, there are on-line analyzers that monitor some parameters, i.e., pH, Residual Chlorine, continuously.



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Mr. Allen directed the group to a slide which shows where the pipes are in each neighborhood in South/West Acton. He stated that some of the original pipes are still in service and are date stamped with 1912 year on them, the year that the District was established. And that they are in process of replacing the old mains and pipes but that it takes time and money.

Ms. Kilpatrick is concerned about the hydrant that was placed at the end of Robins Street because it is so close to the corner. She mentioned how she has almost hit it and how it could be a problem for the plows in the winter. Mr. Allen stated that the installation of this hydrant was required by the Acton Fire Department. It was originally to be located on Beacon Court, a new development, but was instead installed on the Public Right of Way due to the supply line for Beacon Court being approved as a 2" line. A fire hydrant requires a minimum of a 6" line for supply. A flush hydrant was installed on Beacon Court by the developer at the recommendation of the District to allow the line to be flushed to maintain water quality.

Mr. Allen summarized for the group the actions the District is taking to rectify the water issues in South/West Acton. He stated that the main solution is the new water treatment plant that will be on-line in about one year. The District has a 10-year master plan to help keep capital improvements on track. Mr. Phillips stated that the District is infrastructure and the Planning Board is law. The District has zero control over build-out but, by law, we have to supply water to the new developments in areas that public water is available. Mr. Allen also stated that folks should start to see clearer water again because the District has stopped flushing in the South/West Acton area, MA DOT is wrapping up the paving of Rt. 2 for the winter season.

Mr. Allen asked the residents to please keep in contact with the District regarding their water quality (good or bad).

B. Approval of Minutes from September 24th Meetings

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on September 24, 2013 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS

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

See comments from citizens.

2. Update on Assabet Sand & Gravel Property Acquisition.

Counselor Bassett informed the Commissioners that the closing is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 22nd.

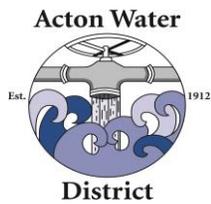
3. Discussion of Financial Planning and Input for Upcoming Working Session on October 24th.

Mr. Allen stated that on Thursday, October 24th, he, Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Bates, and Mr. David Butler will meet to further discuss and evaluate the future financial plans for the Water District. This has been an on-going working session throughout 2013. Mr. Allen requested any preliminary input from the non-participatory commissioners.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Seasonal Flushing and Water Quality Issues.

Flushing began on October 7th but was discontinued indefinitely due to the numerous complaints in the South/West Acton area, primarily in the areas of Maple, Martin, Main, Prescott, Robbins, Billings, among other areas.



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2. Execute Contracts for the South Acton Water Treatment Plant with Waterline Industries for Plant Construction and JP Cardillo for the Water Main Installation.

Mr. Stuntz made a motion to execute contracts for the South Acton Water Treatment Plant with Waterline Industries for plant construction. The Commissioners unanimously approved. The Commissioners signed the contract.

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Other New Business:

Mr. Phillips recently sent an email to Mr. Allen and the other Commissioners about subterranean modeling. He wanted to discuss it further and get comments/feedback from the group. He stated that in Glasgow, Scotland they have launched a project that will use water from abandoned coal mines to supply up to 40% of Glasgow's building heating demand. The British Geological Society produced "Geovisionary" a 3D modeling program that they used to model mine shafts and rock formations. This modeling shows where reservoirs of water in the old mine tunnels can be used as a source of geothermal energy. He stated that this GeoVisual program could be used to model the AWD distribution system in a 3D format. Mr. Allen stated that this could be a very expensive program to purchase. Mr. Phillips will contact the British Geological Society to get more information about the program and how it works, etc.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to adjourn 9:10 p.m. and was unanimously approved.