

West Acton Sewer Action Advisory Committee
January 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Acton Town Hall, Room 9

Minutes

Present: Committee members Janet Adachi, Chairman; Ann Chang, Joanne Bissetta, Garry McCarthy, Samuel Rice, David Wellinghoff; Town Engineer Paul Campbell; Joseph Shea, Senior V.P., Woodard & Curran; Jack Troidl, Project Manager, Woodard & Curran

Absent: Committee members Jon Cappetta, J. D. Head, Peter Henry

Visitors: Leo Fochtman, Terra Friedrichs, Mike Geiss

[Note: The originally posted WASAAC agenda inadvertently listed Room 204 instead of Room 9 as the location for the 1/10/2019 meeting. The committee normally meets in Room 9, which it reserves in advance for each calendar year, but had to reserve Room 204 specially for its rescheduled December meeting. The Chairman, who finalizes the meeting agendas, did not notice the erroneous Room 204 listing on the 1/10 agenda until just before the meeting. Another committee was using Room 204; WASAAC met in Room 9, as usual. The Town Clerk's listing of meetings in the Town Hall lobby provided the correct room locations for the two committees' meetings.]

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: Approval of 5/10/2018, 7/12/2018 and 12/20/2018 minutes.
2. AB School District Site Selection & Sewering Options: Paul reviewed and the committee discussed the chart/spreadsheet that Paul had prepared, summarizing possible sewerage options and associated costs in West Acton, depending on whether the AB Regional School District selected the Conant School site or Gates School site for the proposed new school building.
3. Town's proposed FY20 request: Discussion of \$225K request in proposed FY20 municipal budget for survey/feasibility/preliminary design funds for possible sewerage in West Acton; and tentative timeline for project, with potential further request for design funds at a Special Town Meeting in 12/2019 and construction funds at Annual Town Meeting 4/2020. FY20 request is only 1/5 of total cost of \$1.1M for design. Aerial surveying will further understanding of potential obstacles; surveying will take 6 months, be done after 12/2019 STM. The remaining requests for engineering costs could be separate from or combined with requests for construction costs. Construction could start in 2021, with Town and AB coordinating their respective schedules.

Public information/outreach about FY20 request: The Town will need to provide public information in advance of 2019 Annual Town Meeting about the FY20 request, as well as the larger potential sewerage project. Handouts, information on Town website, Town Manager's newsletter, etc. Paul has been conferring with Jack and Janet about a possible Q&A handout. Jack show samples of materials that Woodard & Curran has created for other towns; the

materials vary in detail and purpose, such as to draw residents to public information sessions or to Town Meeting. Some state financing is available to assist with public outreach/information. Committee members also should plan to attend 2019 ATM and offer comments in support of the survey/design request.

4. Public Comments: Ms. Friedrichs asked about the possibility of a small-scale project serving just businesses that want sewerage, and claimed that some business people did not want sewerage. She and Mr. Geiss reiterated their criticism of the Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan. Mr. Fochtman said that public outreach needed to include not only the pros but the cons of sewerage versus septic systems as to cost/financing and other issues.

Adjournment at 8:50 p.m.

- Janet Adachi, clerk for meeting

Documents Discussed

- Minutes: 5/10/2018, 7/12/2018, 12/20/2018

- West Acton Sewer Project:

1. Chart showing impact of AB site-selection on West Acton sewerage costs
2. Potential West Acton sewerage timeline

Additional Material for 1/10/2019 meeting on file at:

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-10657>

[http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-66181/West%20Acton%20Schedule%20\(DRAFT\).pdf](http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-66181/West%20Acton%20Schedule%20(DRAFT).pdf)