

West Acton Sewer Action Advisory Committee
September 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Acton Town Hall, Room 204

Minutes

Present: Committee members David Martin, Chairman; Ann Chang, Vice-Chairman; Joanne Bissetta; Samuel Rice; J. D. Head; David Wellinghoff; Garry McCarthy; Town Engineer Paul Campbell

Absent: Committee members Jon Cappetta, Peter Henry

Visitors: Jack Troidl & Amanda Sparks, Woodard & Curran; An attendance sheet for the general public was provided

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m to begin the meeting.

Regular Business

Agenda Item #1 - Public Forum

- Mr. Campbell gave a presentation on the sewer project and his recommendations for the final project area to the committee.
- Mr. Martin solicited questions and comments from the public.

Public comments and questions from those in attendance:

- Concern for traffic and housing density
- Concern about easements and construction coordination with home owners
- Question about discharge capacity and thoughts on reducing wastewater flow
- Design considerations for Houghton Lane and alternative designs
- Question on construction methods for sewer construction
- Support for project
- Question about the criteria used by the committee to determine each extended area
- Question about including Flannery Way in the project
- Questions about potential extended areas along Willow and Arlington
- Question about the cost estimate for extending the project beyond core area
- Question about potential future funding for extending sewer beyond West Acton
- Question about providing gravity sewer throughout the entire Town of Acton
- Question on whether Fort Pond Brook is an environmentally impacted waterway

The committee, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Troidl responded to each question and concern. After addressing all public comments, Mr. Martin closed the public portion of the meeting at 8:00 PM

Regular Business

Agenda Item #2 – Review of meeting minutes

Approval of 8/15/2019 minutes. Ms. Chang moved to amend a typo in the minutes. Mr. Rice moved to approve the minutes as amended, Mr. Head seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item #3 – Comments from the Chair

There were no comments from the Chair

Agenda Item #4 – Finalize Project Limits & Project Cost Estimate

The committee discussed each of the extent areas as shown on the preliminary sewer layout and extents map provided. Comments and questions from the committee were:

- The cost for low-pressure sewer for Houghton Lane
- Consensus of Half-moon Hill residents having no interest in the project at the time
- Houghton Lane residents understanding what a low-pressure system is. It was suggested to meet with the residents in this area, explain low-pressure sewer systems and allow them to consider themselves as part of the project
- Cost estimates for each area, its design flow and the extended area's effect on available capacity at the treatment plant
- Public needs such as providing sewer service to the Acton Housing Authority and the benefits of each extended area
- Areas available to be serviced by gravity sewer
- Factors which effect the limit of gravity sewer, such as the depth of the sewer and grade of the roadway
- A recommendation to notify property owners immediately adjacent to the final sewer project area explaining how the sewer service area was determined
- The location of proposed pump stations
- Available capacity within the existing sewer system and treatment plant
- The Nash/Downey medium priority area identified in the CWRMP
- The financial effect of areas 7 and 8 and the available capacity to service these areas

The committee considered each extended area and took the following votes:

1. Ms. Chang moved to schedule a meeting with the Houghton Lane residents to discuss a low-pressure sewer option, Ms. Bissetta seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.
2. Ms. Chang moved to exclude the yellow shaded properties identified as Half-Moon Hill and parcels E2-289 and F2A-2-3, shown as Extent 2, from the sewer project area. Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.
3. Ms. Chang moved to exclude the unshaded section of Massachusetts Ave beyond Wright Terrace, shown as Extent 3, from the sewer project area. Mr. Head seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.
Mr. Head moved to extend sewer to the extent feasible by gravity along Arlington Street to include the yellow shaded properties identified as parcels F2A-84, F2A-115 and F2A-

108, shown as Extent 4, in the sewer project area. Mr. Rice seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

5. Ms. Chang moved to extend sewer along Willow Street to the stream crossing to include the yellow shaded properties identified as parcels F2B-48-1 and F2B-77, shown as Extent 5, in the sewer project area. Ms. Bissetta seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.
6. Ms. Chang moved to extend sewer along Central Street to the extent feasible by gravity or limited by other impediments. Mr. Rice seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.
7. Ms. Chang moved to exclude all yellow shaded properties shown within Extents #7 and #8 from the sewer project area. Ms. Bissetta seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item #5 – Public Outreach Events

The schedule of the public outreach events was discussed. Committee members volunteered for the various events.

Agenda Item #6 – Update on AB School District twin-school project

Mr. Head updated the committee on the twin-school project and their variance request with DEP and the local Board of Health.

Agenda Item #7 – Potential future schedule & topics

No future schedule or topics were discussed

After discussing the agenda items, a motion to end the meeting was made by Ms. Chang, seconded by Mr. Rice and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Paul Campbell, clerk for meeting

Documents Discussed

- Draft minutes, 8/15/2019
- Preliminary Sewer Layout & Extents
- CWRMP High Needs Areas
- WASAAC Flyer
- Public Outreach mailer (sewer forum notice – 8.21.2019 – FINAL)
- WWTF Capacity
- 12955 – Variance for Schools Application – 2019-07-25

Discussed documents and other material for the 9/12/2019 meeting available on Town of Acton website at:

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-9473>

Information on the sewer project may be found on the Town's website here: <http://www.acton-ma.gov/645/West-Acton-Sewer>