

West Acton Sewer Action Advisory Committee
October 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
The Gallery at Village Works, West Acton, 525 Mass Ave #200 Acton, MA

Minutes

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

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

Visitors: Jack Troidl & Jim Rivard, 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 informed those in attendance that the forum was being recorded for Acton TV.
- Mr. Campbell gave a presentation on the sewer project.
- Mr. Martin solicited questions and comments from the public.

Public comments and questions from those in attendance:

- Support for the sewer project from multiple business owners in West Acton.
- Concern about septic maintenance costs and environmental benefits.
- Concern about the location of pump stations.
- Concern about the estimated cost of betterments.
- Concern about reported septic failures in West Acton.

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.

Regular Business

Agenda Item #2 – Review of meeting minutes

Approval of 8/15/2019 minutes. Ms. Bissetta moved to approve the minutes, Mr. McCarthy 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 a meeting that Mr. Campbell and Mr. Martin had with the Houghton Lane/Arlington Street residents on October 1st. Mr. Martin reported that the residents along Arlington Street would accept being included in the project on either a gravity or low-pressure service while the residents on Houghton Lane were mixed in their support on any option.

After discussing the project benefits and effects of providing sewer service to the Houghton Lane/Arlington Street area, the committee considered Ms. Chang moved to include the following properties to the sewer project area via a low-pressure sewer connection:

1. 175 Arlington Street (Parcel ID F2-A-14)
2. 182 Arlington Street (Parcel ID F2-A-22-1)
3. 174 Arlington Street (Parcel ID F2-A-22)
4. 169 Arlington Street (Parcel ID F2-A-10)
5. 170 Arlington Street (Parcel ID F2-22)
6. 165 Arlington Street (Parcel ID F2-A-8)

Mr. Rice seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Agenda Item #5 – Public Outreach Events

The committee recapped the public outreach events held to date.

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

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

Agenda Item #7 – Discuss recommendation to the Board of Selectmen

Mr. Martin discussed the upcoming schedule for the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting. The committee discussed the project's costs and potential future changes. After discussing the merits of the project, Ms. Chang moved to recommend a positive recommendation of the project to the Board of Selectmen, Mr. McCarthy seconded and it was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Item #7 – Potential future schedule & topics

Potential future topics for the next public forum 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, 9/12/2019

- Preliminary Sewer Layout
- Houghton Lane Extension Analysis
- West Acton Sewer Project – Betterment Cost Estimate Breakdown – October 10, 2019

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