

**Acton Board of Health**

**April 28, 2014**

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ACTON

**Members Present:** Michael Kreuze, Chairman, Joanne Bissetta, and William McInnis

**Staff Present:** Doug Halley, Health Director

**Water District:** Ronald Parenti, Leonard Philips, Stephen Stuntz, Chris Allen, Mary Jo Bates, Mary Bassett, Matthew Mostoller, Lynn Protasowicki, Barry Rosen, John Cipar and Chip Orcutt

**Others Present;** Debbie Andell

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Proposed Groundwater Protection District Bylaw Amendment/Hazardous Materials Bylaw**  
Mr. Phillips provided a brief history of what led to the decisions behind amending the

Groundwater Protection District Bylaw and why the District decided to take no action on the proposed amendment to the Bylaw at Annual Town Meeting. The Water District determined that they needed to look at Zone 3 land because it affects the overall Town and they further determined that the Hazardous Material Bylaw should be addressed as well.

Mr. Halley gave an overview of what the Hazardous Materials Control Bylaw is. The Bylaw has been in place since 1988, he stated that there are 156 locations with hazmat permits. There are 50 potential conditions, determined by the Board of Health, which each business must comply with. The Health Department inspects each site annually for compliance. The Water District is one on the businesses that have a hazmat permit. Mr. McInnis mentioned that the list of conditions are a public document and can be shared with the Water District. Mr. Halley noted that in changing either of the bylaws care must be taken not to prohibit materials that support the basic functions of a business (i.e. heating fuel).

Mr. Halley suggested that a subcommittee be formed with one representative from the Water District, Planning Board, Board of Health and a third party consultant to work together on changes to the Bylaws that would protect the drinking water supply.

Mr. McInnis made a motion to support the suggested subcommittee with Ms. Bissetta providing the second. The Board unanimously supported the motion.

### **16 Knox Trail**

Mr. Allen gave the background history and update to the BOH regarding the Assabet Sand and Gravel purchase. Mr. Mostoller brought out a map to show the area of land being purchased.

### **South Acton Water Treatment Plant Update**

Mr. Allen provided an overview of the South Acton Water Treatment Plant project. He reviewed the wells to be connected to the plant. He also addressed the water flushing being conducted in the Fall and the Spring of next year. He spoke about the water main replacements being conducted and he informed the BOH of the updating of the meter technology throughout the Town.

Mr. McInnis inquired about the numerous breaks in the area of Duggan Road. Mr. Allen mentioned that the District is having Cortec evaluate the reasons why so many breaks are being experienced.

### **Reducing or waiving connection fees**

Mr. McInnis mentioned that they haven't had any issues or questions regarding residents concerned over connection fees. These sometimes occur when a resident is transitioning from a private well to the public water. He wanted to make sure the issue is still understood as a BOH concern. The Commissioners stated that if a concern is raised regarding connection fees they would address the problem on a case by case basis.

### **"Brown" Water**

Mr. Kreuze would like to know why and how the "brown" water occurs in South Acton. Mr. Allen stated that the new South Acton Water Treatment Plant will solve the brown water issues. He also stated that there will be two aggressive "flushings" that will take place in the South Acton area this fall and next spring. These flushings should remove any excess residue in the pipes prior to the filtration plant going on-line. Over time the duration of "brown" water will subside as the mineral content in the water is filtered out by the new South Acton plant. Mr.

Kreuze asked if residents will be notified that the flushing will happen and that they may experience “brown” water. Mr. Allen assured the BOH that they will use the Connect CTY System to keep water user notified of future flushings.

#### **Concord Ice Rink connection**

Mr. Allen explained the situation with Valley Sports Arena in Concord. The ice rink is on the Concord/Acton line. The water they currently use for making ice does not provide the necessary firmness for use as ice. The owner of the rink approached the Water District to help resolving their problem. The owner reached an agreement with the District, hired a contractor to install a connection through directional drilling and they now have the necessary quality of ice.

#### **Capacity Issues**

Mr. Kreuze asked if the Commissioners were concerned about future capacity. Mr. Allen stated that capacity is always a concern. The Town uses 1.9 million gallons per day (permitted limit). During the summer months the peak exceeds 3 million gallons per day. Next August the District’s DEP permit must be renewed. The District is very aggressive with conservation measures, especially during the peak summer months, by asking residents to water on odd/even days. It’s extremely important that the Water District/Board of Health/Planning Board work collaboratively when addressing new home construction in Acton

Mr Phillips wrapped up the discussion by thanking the BOH for attending their meeting. The Commissioners look forward to continuing to work with the BOH. Future issues to think about for the District and the Board include:

- Form a reasonable plan for protecting water in Zone 3
- Examining the factors that determine the Zone 3 area
- Tighten regulations on discharges to prevent their intrusion into the drinking water supply.

Mr. McInnis made a motion to approval the meeting at 9:10 PM and was unanimously approved by both Boards.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Doug Halley, Health Director  
Acton Board of Health



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Michael Kreuze, Chairman  
Acton Board of Health