



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Mike Geis, Joe Robb, and Dave Boccuti

Chairperson: Joe Robb

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Dean Charter (Select Board Member), Thomas Begin (Assistant Town Manager), and Corey Godfrey

1. Opening

WRAC chair Joe Robb opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. DPW Building Project Presentation – Dean Charter presented a 30-minute overview of the proposed construction of a new DPW building. To proceed with this project a debt exclusion must pass by majority vote at the April 29 election, and then approved by a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting on May 5. Charter's presentation described the deficiencies of the current building (which was constructed in the 1960s), its deteriorating condition, and the difficulty of parking all of the vehicles operated by the DPW in the building. He emphasized that the ability to park the highly-specialized, and expensive, vehicles greatly extended their service life. The new building would be fossil-fuel free, as mandated by regulations passed at Town Meeting, and would be heated by 30, 500ft-deep, geothermal wells. The estimated cost of the construction is approximately \$38m, which would be paid by a 30-year loan. The debt service charge for that loan would cost the average taxpayer about \$275 per year for the lifetime of the loan. Charter noted that the cost would increase significantly if construction were to be delayed by several years.

Following the presentation Dave Boccuti asked about the record keeping for fuel used DPW vehicles and school buses. Charter responded that there is an inventory management system that allows this information to be recorded automatically. Ron Parenti and Joe Robb both asked about the Finance Committee vote to recommend against the spending. Charter stated that there have been multiple discussions between the Select Board and fincom, but that fincom members are firm in their belief that the construction should be delayed. Questions about protection from fuel leaks were asked by Barry Rosen, and Charter responded that the fuel tanks are above ground, have a state-of-the-art design, and are constantly monitored. In his response to Mike Geis' question about salt storage, Charter stated that the new facility would provide better protection from salt runoff that could impact groundwater.



B. Any Other New Business – Mike Geis informed the Committee that announcements for the Stormwater Outreach event had been distributed to a number of local businesses, and that 100 additional copies (with the new QR code) had been generated for distribution at Town meeting. Announcements have also been posted in the April and May Municipal Monthly, and the Acton Exchange. Ron Parenti discussed a test questionnaire that he had generated, and copies of the response link have been sent to Committee members for review. The content and structure of the questionnaire will be discussed at the next WRAC meeting.

3. Adjournment

Committee members will hold their next meeting on 15 May 2025 at 7pm to discuss preparations for the Stormwater Outreach Event to be held on 29 May. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Mike Geis. This motion was unanimously approved by the Committee members in attendance at 8:35 pm. All documents referenced during this meeting can be found on DocuShare at <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19137>.