



Dedham Town Hall
450 Washington Street
Dedham, MA 02026
Phone 781-751-9240

**TOWN OF DEDHAM
450 WASHINGTON STREET
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF THE WATER RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
ROOM 305, THIRD FLOOR
January 21, 2025, 6:30 P.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jessica Porter, Planning Board	Chair
Dimitria Sullivan, Select Board	Vice-Chair
Nathan Gauthier, Cons. Com.	Member
Kelsey Pieper, Resident	Member
Meredith LaBelle, Cons. Agent	Ex-Officio
Blake Lukis, DWWD	Ex-Officio

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shaw McDermott, Resident	Member
Jay O'Brien, Planning Board	Member
Dennis Teehan, Select Board	Member

TOWN STAFF PRESENT:

Jeremy Rosenberger	Director of Planning
--------------------	----------------------

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Irving thanked Committee members for taking the opportunity to review his reports he had submitted. He looks forward to any comments and future discussions.

2. REVIEW & DISCUSSION OF DRAFT WRAC REPORT

Ms. Porter suggested that the Introduction capture the Committee's finding that all water resources are related, and each must be considered when discussing drinking water. Ms. Porter also agreed with Ms. Sullivan's suggestion that an Executive Summary should be included as the first section of the report.

Mr. Gauthier noted that the first objective listed for the Committee within the report specifically references drinking water demand. He stated his belief that the Town could easily influence demand through code enforceable actions such as requiring water-saving fixtures, but that the Committee has not explored that as an opportunity. Ms. Pieper agreed. Ms. Porter suggested this be added to a list of items that have yet to be discussed by the Committee. Ms. Sullivan stated she believed the word "demand" in the

Committee's objectives implied that the Committee should consider the amount of water that will be required in the future, not that the Committee should consider additional regulations to influence the amount of water people use. Mr. Lukis noted that the Committee could consider future demand projections, the existing capacity to meet that projection, and strategies to potentially mitigate the increase in demand while still promoting growth.

Ms. Porter asked that the Executive Summary include a broad discussion of initial questions identified by the Committee.

Mr. Gauthier noted that the Committee has found that the Town's water supply is sensitive, if not limited, and suggested a general recommendation that the Town be aware of water use and conservation when planning Town construction projects. He also suggested water conservation could be a recommended consideration for boards' discussions on private development projects.

Ms. LaBelle stated additional background on the formation of the Committee would be helpful in the Introduction section.

Mr. Lukis noted that the draft report includes many suggested actions but does not include information on what the Committee learned through its process. He specifically noted that the report suggests increasing public outreach, but it doesn't mention the public outreach activities that the Dedham-Westwood Water District (DWWD) currently does, such as discounts for rain barrels, water conservation rebates, school outreach, leak detection kits, and informational booths at Dedham Day and Westwood Day, among other things. He suggested that current activities be documented, and the suggested actions be framed as additional actions that could be taken.

Ms. Pieper suggested a section introducing the DWWD as the Town's water supplier would be helpful. She noted that the fact that the DWWD is in compliance with applicable regulations should be included, as well. She suggested text on the subject may already exist within the DWWD's Consumer Confidence Report. She also suggested that the report could also direct the reader to other publicly available documents to avoid becoming too lengthy.

Ms. LaBelle suggested that the report be structured so that a synopsis of gathered information, findings, and resulting recommendations be included in each topic's subsection to make the information more easily digestible.

Ms. Pieper suggested that the graphic from DWWD's presentation showing projected demand be included in the report.

Ms. Porter suggested that a section be added to communicate background and basic information about drinking water so the document can be used to help inform the reader on the topic.

Ms. LaBelle suggested an appendix be added that summarizes the report's recommendations in a chart that also identifies key stakeholders for each item.

Ms. Sullivan noted she was not in favor of some of the recommendations currently in the draft, specifically citing the recommendation suggesting the DWWD consider a pricing structure to incentivize conservation. Mr. Lukis added that the DWWD currently has such a pricing structure, so the recommendation may not be needed.

Ms. Sullivan also expressed concern over the recommendation that private wells be regulated, suggesting that the recommendation be softened.

Ms. Pieper asked who the audience for the report would be, noting that a report for the Select Board would not require as much background and educational information as a report intended for the public. Ms. Porter stated that, while the report is primarily for the Select Board, she felt that the audience is likely much broader as drinking water issues are influenced by many different boards and organizations. She added that a recommendation in the report should be that the Select Board disseminate the report to each applicable committee.

Ms. Sullivan expressed concern over the recommendation that zoning regulations be amended. She stated that she recalled this item as a comment during a meeting, but didn't believe the Committee had agreed to recommend it to the Select Board. Ms. Porter stated the Committee needed to go through each of the recommendations included in the draft report and determine how they felt about each.

Mr. Gauthier stated he felt the recommendations could be less prescriptive and rather be worded as suggestions of things for the Select Board to consider pursuing.

Ms. Porter noted that she had reviewed the Committee's minutes and had listed a few additional recommendations to be considered for the report. She asked that other Committee members share any similar additions to the list of recommendations soon so they could be included in the next version of the draft. She suggested that the report could be revised based on the feedback received so far, and the next meeting be used to review the individual recommendations.

Ms. Pieper noted that the report seems to cover many different areas and may be overstepping in some cases. She suggested that the Committee consider the group's guiding principle and use that to frame the report. She also suggested that the Committee review the report in full before pursuing significant revisions to prevent additional work. Mr. Lukis agreed, stating he had remaining comments on the current draft and would like to share those before another version is created.

3. **APPROVAL OF 11/19/24 MEETING MINUTES**
Meeting minutes were tabled to the next meeting.

4. **NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA**

After discussion, the Committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for Monday, February 24th at 6:30PM.

In preparation for the meeting, the Committee decided to individually submit comments on the current draft report to Mr. Rosenberger by 2/14/2025.

5. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

No old or new business was mentioned.

6. **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:58PM.