

Minutes of the March 31, 2014 Meeting
Warwick City Council Sewer Review Commission

Meeting was called to order by Councilman Ed Ladouceur, Chairman at 8:16 AM in the conference room at the Warwick Sewer Authority.

Commission members present:

Councilman Ed Ladouceur, Chairman
Representative Frank Ferri, District 22
Peter Ginaitt, Warwick Sewer Authority Board
James Boyd, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Angelo Liberti, RI Department of Environmental Management
Michelle Komar, Chairman's Citizen Appointment
Topher Hamblett, Save The Bay

Members not present: Councilman Joe Gallucci, Vice Chairman, Mark Carruolo, Mayor's Chief of Staff, Doug Harris, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Senator William Walaska, District 30, Ernie Zmyslinski, City of Warwick Finance Director, David Picozzi, City of Warwick Department of Public Works Director, Aaron Guckian, Warwick Sewer Authority Board

Also present: Janine Burke, WSA Executive Director, Steve Sylven, Warwick Sewer Authority Board, William Russo, Advisor to Committee

10 Minute Open Microphone Session

Jim Boyasian: Referenced the article that Gene Nadeau had handed out from RI Magazine and asked if anyone had been down to see that pipe on Strand Road where stuff is "pouring out" including lots of debris when it's raining. He said he had gone down there and measured the pipe, it's a 20-inch pipe. He said when he was younger there used to be lots of quahogs in that area, Buttonwoods Park. He said he wouldn't swim there now. He also spoke of infrastructure on Suburban Parkway at Seaview Drive. He asked what that was? He said it was less than 100 feet from the ocean and there are 2 great big cylinders and what are those? He said that the City might be in violation of the 200 foot rule with whatever that is.

Don Fife: Reiterated what Mr. Boyasian said and asked whether Ms. Burke went out to check the pipe he mentioned last time? He said it was "ridiculous" that the questions were not being answered. The Chairman and Mr. Ginaitt suggested Mr. Fife speak with Ms. Burke after the meeting to get his question answered.

March 24th Minutes

Ms. Komar and Mr. Boyd provided comments/corrections to the minutes and the amendments were accepted.

Action: Motion to approve the March 24th minutes, as amended

Moved by: Jim Boyd

Seconded by: Angelo Liberti, Frank Ferri

Motion passes (unanimous)

March 26th Minutes

Ms. Komar and Mr. Boyd had numerous amendments/corrections to the draft minutes. Since the draft minutes were not distributed until the previous evening, approval was tabled to the next meeting.

Discussion – Grinder Pumps

None.

Discussion – Cesspool and Septic System Inspection Guidelines

None.

Discussion in Regards to Enabling Legislation

Discussion resumed at Line 618 on the working document dated March 25, 2014.

There was lots of discussion focusing on when sewer connections should be required in various situations with the general consensus that property owners should get at least 20 years use from their on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). Ms. Komar was not in favor of expanding mandatory sewer connections in any way from the existing language, she did mention a mandatory sewer connection schedule which Ms. Burke had mentioned at past Commission meeting in that the areas sewer first would be first for mandatory sewer connection; for instance, if Norwood sewer in 1960's, 20-year loans for sewer assessments would have been paid off and this financial burden gone. Mr. Russo thought this might be good suggestion. It was mentioned that sewer assessment deferments may be beyond 20 years. Ms. Komar asked whether the proposed language would cover connections to the West Warwick sewer system? She also questioned the applicability to commercial/industrial properties. Ms. Burke believed it did apply in both cases but that should be checked with legal counsel. Review of enabling legislation for the Industrial Pretreatment Program was mentioned to be dealt with at a later date. The need to phase-in sewer connections and incentives were referred to by several Commission members and the proposed deadlines for various situations were extensively discussed. The discussions raised numerous issues still to be tackled by the Commission including wastewater management district ordinances and level of oversight by the City Council.

The recommended/suggested changes by most Commission members to Section 2.17 of the enabling legislation document noted were:

Line 617 – add #4: “For parcels provided with sewer service after December 31, 2019, those parcels shall connect to the public sewer within 14 years of sewer service availability.”

Line 615 – change to 17 years after sewer service is available (in subsection #3)

Line 619 – delete Section C for future sewer construction project requirements and incorporate some of the language into #4 above with the exception of the last sentence which shall be moved to Section 2.9 regarding sewer assessments (Lines 624 through 626)

Line 628 – becomes new Section C

Line 632 – becomes new Section D

Discussion ended with no consensus as to the recommended language in Section 2.17 regarding mandatory connections.

The next Commission meeting dates were scheduled for April 2nd at 8:30 AM and April 3rd at 8 AM at the offices of the Warwick Sewer Authority.

Councilman Ladouceur adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:45 AM.

DRAFT