

MEETING MINUTES

GROUNDWATER WASTEWATER DISCHARGE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025
ROPEWALK ROOM
26 COURT ST • PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Members Present: Mark Champagne, Bill Doyle, Martin Enos, Rose Forbes (Clerk), David Golden (Chair), Hampton Watkins (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Josh Bows

Others in Attendance: Kendra Martin (Town of Plymouth Water and Wastewater Engineer), Doug Pinard (Town of Plymouth Department of Public Works [DPW]), Neal Price (Horsley Witten), and members of the public (Tom Fugazzi, Mary Gatslick, Mike Hanlon, Matt Hoagland)

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. David Golden asked the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) members if there were any comments on the March 2, 2025 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Golden asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Hampton Watkins made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Marty Enos seconded the motion. The motion passed six in favor, none against, and one not present.

Substance		Approve March 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes				
Last Name	First Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote	Not Present
Bows	Josh					X
Champagne	Mark	X				
Doyle	Bill	X				
Enos	Martin	X				
Forbes	Rose	X				
Watkins	Hampton	X				
Golden	David	X				
TOTALS		6	0	0	0	1

Mr. David Golden asked the CAC if there were any comments on the September 29, 2025 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Golden asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Martin Enos made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. David Golden seconded the motion. The motion passed five in favor, none against, one abstention, and one not present.

Substance		Approve September 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes				
Last Name	First Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote	Not Present
Bows	Josh					X
Champagne	Mark	X				
Doyle	Bill			X		
Enos	Martin	X				
Forbes	Rose	X				
Watkins	Hampton	X				
Golden	David	X				
TOTALS		5	0	1	0	1

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Hanlon (Town Meeting Member for Precinct 15, CAC member for the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, and Environmental Engineer) stated the Town should respond in writing to the questions and comments made during the public comment period at the last meeting on September 29, 2025 and post the responses on the Town website. He also mentioned the Town of Eastham voted on Jun 23, 2025 to spend \$130 million on the construction of a wastewater treatment plant because they were concerned with water quality.

TERTIARY FILTER PILOT – DOUG PINARD

Mr. Doug Pinard stated the Town secured a pilot test for a tertiary treatment system called Aqua-Aerobics at no cost and it was set up at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The system employs AquaDisk cloth media filters to remove phosphorus following chemical coagulation using polyaluminum chloride (PAC). Mr. Pinard stated the tertiary treatment might remove nitrates as well. Mr. Pinard's presentation can be found on the Town website at <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/1262/Wastewater-Treatment-Plant-Groundwater-D>.

Mr. Watkins asked about the disposition of the filters and the rough estimate of operations and maintenance (O&M) costs. Mr. Pinard stated there is an increase in both chemical and electricity costs and the filters would be disposed of as solid waste. Mr. Pinard will look into the capital cost of employing this tertiary treatment as a full-scale unit operation.

Ms. Forbes asked what chemical testing is being done at the pilot test. Mr. Pinard stated both phosphate and nitrate are being analyzed.

Mr. Golden asked what the long-term plan is for the tertiary treatment. Mr. Pinard stated the Town gave approval for tertiary treatment and he has until December 2026 to begin treatment. He stated he is hoping for good data so he can scale up the project.

Mr. Tom Fugazzi stated the tertiary system sounds like a good addition.

Ms. Mary Gatslick asked about the removal efficiency. Mr. Pinard replied that he will not know until he gets the analytical results. Ms. Gatslick asked if the presentation and results can be posted on the Town website. Mr. Pinard replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Golden asked Ms. Gatslick if the tertiary treatment changes her mind on discharging treated effluent to the infiltration beds. Ms. Gatslick stated in the affirmative if the effluent is treated before discharging to the groundwater.

Mr. Matt Hoagland, Eel River Watershed Association, asked what else is being tested? Mr. Pinard stated they are testing for nitrogen/nitrate to determine reduction efficiency.

Ms. Forbes reiterated Mr. Hoagland's question. Mr. Pinard stated they are only testing for nitrogen/nitrate, phosphorus/phosphate, and total suspended solids (TSS). Ms. Forbes asked about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Mr. Pinard stated they are reluctant to test for PFAS.

Mr. Bill Doyle asked what the point of the public listening session was during the CAC meeting on September 29, 2025. Mr. Golden responded the purpose was a listening session to hear comments from the public.

REVIEW OF COMMENT/QUESTION RESPONSES

The next agenda item was a review of the CAC questions/comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and the Town's responses.

Ms. Forbes stated she was concerned the No Action Alternative was not included for discussion in the DEIR. Mr. Price stated the No Action Alternative was discussed in the Enhanced Environmental Notification Form (EENF) document and it would be against the regulatory process to include it again in the DEIR. Ms. Forbes stated the DEIR will be submitted for public review and comment and the No Action Alternative is an important comparison to the other alternatives included in the DEIR. She asked if the Town really expects the public to review both the DEIR and the 900 page EENF to understand the big picture. Mr. Watkins stated reading an EENF and the DEIR requires a professional herculean effort by those that have an environmental background. Mr. Mark Champagne stated a "Cliff Notes" explanation might be helpful. Mr. Watkins offered to prepare a white paper outline that gives an overview of the project and lets people know where to find additional information.

Ms. Forbes expressed concern that the wind turbine foundation was not addressed in the hydraulic analyses. She stated the wind turbine foundation does not sit on the ground surface as the analyses suggested; rather the foundation extends at least 10 feet below ground surface. Ms. Kendra Martin stated she attempted to find the wind turbine foundation depth in the Town records but was not able to find the information. She asked Ms. Forbes to assist.

Mr. Enos stated he was not comfortable with changing the permit. He expressed concerns that testing has only been conducted over 60% of the area and there are no monitoring wells between the infiltration beds and Warren Wells Brook. Mr. Enos also questioned why other alternative sites were not evaluated and expressed additional concern about discharge to the infiltration beds ending up in the Eel River.

Mr. Champagne stated his comments were not related to the topics being discussed. He stated if the discharge is changed from the ocean outfall to the infiltration beds, additional treatment should be done.

Mr. Watkins wanted to confirm if the Town plans to keep the ocean outfall even if they move the treated discharge to the infiltration beds. Mr. Pinard stated that is the plan. He also stated John Hobill, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, thought they should incrementally step up the discharge rate to the infiltration beds and sample during that time.

Ms. Forbes stated her concerns with moving the effluent discharge from the ocean outfall to the infiltration beds include hydraulic impacts (wind turbine, Warren Wells Brook), untreated contaminants (including PFAS et al) in the effluent being discharged to the groundwater, and impacts to private well users downgradient of the infiltration beds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mary Gatslick noted the report she received was incomplete with placeholders and requested an updated DEIR with the latest water quality data. Mr. Price noted the data are now updated through 2025. She also asked if there were drinking water quality exceedances. Ms. Martin stated the area downgradient of the WWTP is not a viable drinking water aquifer. Ms. Gatslick stated she is on board with tertiary treatment and the Aqua-Aerobics system can also treat PFAS. Ms. Gatslick also recommended the Town test the sewer trucks as they arrive at the WWTP. Mr. Pinard stated they do not test individual trucks but they test at the WWTP for pH, dissolved oxygen, volatile organic compounds and chemical oxygen demand. Ms. Gatslick stated they are missing the opportunity to identify issues with septic haulers and the Town should test for Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste constituents and radionuclides. Mr. Pinard stated they will look into equipment to conduct additional sample analyses.

Mr. Fugazzi asked for an update on connecting Camelot industrial park to the WWTP. Mr. Pinard stated they did not receive the grant money to connect the industrial park but noted the Shops at 5 are on sewer.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Forbes, Clerk