

SAC Meeting Minutes (Draft)

February 19, 2026

Minutes prepared by Nancy Hammett

1. Welcome and Introduction of Visitors

Attending: Tyler Glode, Katie Swan, Nancy Hammett, Warren Tolman
(Laurel Schwab out on leave. Steve Magoon no longer a member. Two resident seats need to be filled.)

No visitors.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Acceptance of Nov. 20 minutes deferred until March meeting

3. Brief Reports/Status Updates (Tyler Glode)

A. Copeland St. Stormwater Management Project:

On Copeland St between Highland Ave. and Grandview. Planning started 3 years ago, going out for bid Feb. 26th. Will use remaining ARPA funds for stormwater tree trenches, to be installed this year. Addresses flooding concerns on Upper Copeland, with new granite new sidewalk, new subsurface system. The street has significant tree cover which needs water.

Are also doing planning for 5 or 6 other streets in the area which have poor pavement conditions. Will include some full treatment (tree trenches, additional stormwater management) and some just mill and overlay.

Discussed need for public outreach about the Copeland St. project – once contractor is on board

B. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant status update

Two MVP programs underway right now:

- Mystic River Watershed Assoc is performing some improvements on Cottage St. Soil testing completed, hope to have design 75% completed by June. Age of the neighborhood presents challenges - some property line concerns, narrow streets.
- Watertown's MVP project – working on survey responses (will take several more weeks) and design work is well on the way. Will take place on Ralph Piteri

Terrace, which has significant flooding problems. Will address the flooding with green technologies (similar to what was done for Edenfield). A virtual public outreach event for this project is scheduled at the Library for March 4th.

- C. Charles River Watershed Assoc (CRWA) Jan 19, 2026 event
Presenters included Tyler Glode and Alfredo Con and Arrianna Proia from CRWA.
(Recording of event: available on CRWA website
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWlqzCdmkq8>).
Focus on Watertown as a model for effective stormwater management, with emphasis on requirement that permits address the 100 year storm and the city's two-tiered permitting. Discussion included the current regulatory environment, phosphorus control, and the need for public education.
CRWA's CASS (Climate Adaptation Stormwater Standards) program highlights Watertown's approach and other effective municipal programs, given the need for more effective municipal stormwater programs in the face of climate change.

- D. Discussion of potential changes in the MS4 stormwater permit and Mass Stormwater Manual updates, with delays and uncertainty about regulation changes – including land disturbance definitions and changes in the definition of the 100 year storm. The MS4 permit is stable for now, but future regulation changes – e.g. addressing chloride and other pollutants – could impact stormwater practices.

4. General Discussion - SAC Future Planning

- A. Identifying funding sources for stormwater projects remains a priority.

- B. Recruitment of new resident members:
Efforts by the Resident Advisory Committee are underway to recruit resident members of various committees, including SAC. Their efforts will include mailings, videos and public events. Nancy described her meeting with Kathryn Madden about recruiting potential candidates. Warren will create a video on the SAC for the RAC's outreach.

- C. Discussion of need for expanded outreach and education to improve public understanding of stormwater issues, e.g. including potential outreach to other committees (Conservation Commission and Planning Board), and compilation and sharing of outfall water quality monitoring data.

D. Committee Rules and Operations & new Administrative Code

The city is currently updating its Administrative Code, which includes rules and requirements for the SAC. The most recent draft presents questions about the role of an “advisory committee”, about SAC membership (reduced to 3 residents & 2 staff) , and need for SAC rules and regulations, annual election of officers, and preparation of an annual report. Nancy described her meeting with the City Manager to discuss the developing Code and its implications for the SAC’s practices. Discussion included need to clarify the SAC’s mandate, possible renewed reporting to the City Council’s DPW Committee, need for additional resident member slots, continued focus on public education and project oversight.

Discussion noted that it is difficult to recruit new members in the absence of a clear view of what the SAC’s responsibilities are.

5. Announcements

A. Next meeting: March 19, 2026 4-5 pm