

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Location: Town Hall, DPW office

Date: January 16, 2024, 6:30 PM



Members present:

1. Bruce Arbonies, Chair
2. Emily Simmer, Secretary
3. Kristen Jamski (7:30pm arrival)
4. Peter Weafer
5. Joanne Wyckoff

Members absent:

1. Jacqueline Bohn

Others present:

Kevin Cafferty, Scituate DPW Director

Call to order

Water System Updates

WTP update – still on schedule. RFPs due end of January. Feb will be review. Complete design package (90%) should be back from engineer by March. Bid documents available 4/24 and bidding in May, awarding contract in June. Construction end date in Nov 2026.

Woodward & Curran working to get bigger manganese contactors – will be for the new plant but if we can get in time will be used in old plant until needed for new one. Will connect with a new bubbler/aeration system due to algae issues.

In Feb the WTP needs to be shut down for about 10 days to replace the carbon filter. Probably won't require a water ban because so early in season and still pretty wet out.

Well 17 issues – well source water has changed. Weren't sure if the discoloration was from the WTP or the well or the reaction between the two. Well 17 was shut down in Sept. Will need to test and reopen it when we shut down WTP in Feb. Changed chlorine doses etc. and tried a bunch of stuff. Pilot study going on now – changed system to use potassium permanganate (a different chemical to treat the water).

Letter sent to residents re TTHMs – we aren't the only town with this issue, which stems from the high water table this year.

Joanne is looking for the rules and regulations change document for meters and hookups – Lorraine wasn't able to locate. Kevin will have Eric L from water dept connect with Joanne.

Desal update

Heard back from MIT – they got approval for funding a proposal and are moving on to next steps. Will meet with our desal committee on 1/25 at 10am via zoom. Kevin will attend or send a rep if possible. The goal of this MIT technology is to offset water use by supplementing non-potable water needs – for irrigation, vehicle washing, etc.

Not sure yet how feasible this may be – moving desalinated water inland is challenging and requires \$ investment, infrastructure, etc. As discussed, re-using our very clean sewer discharge water for non-potable purposes probably would be easier and less costly – with one or two more processes it would be ready for irrigation.

Rain Barrels

Emily will check in with the town media person about helping with rain barrel promotion. Emily and Bruce will send Kristen info from last year for revision. Emily will handle non-town Facebook promotion. We need someone to coordinate with town to send an email and do a town Facebook post a month before the deadline and a reminder a week or so before as well as get the info on our WRC web page (web page needs to be updated first so we can link to it). Will create and print fliers to hang around town – we have a list now of good options. Will pay attention to see if any town events are coming up that would be good to attend/promote the program. We can coordinate some of this over email before our next meeting since it doesn't require a quorum. We can also send an email to the ppl who ordered rain barrels previously – they may need more or be willing to share with friends, and we can include some water conservation info (great idea!).

BMP document re: best conservation practices: *catchment, drainage, landscaping, etc. for planning, zoning, and con com to potentially share with builders*

Joanne has been researching. NSRWA has a lot of resources but no info on lawn alternatives. Would building dept be interested in a doc for contractors/developers? Could there be any incentives offered for builders who use more natural/sustainable processes?

Liaison updates

Pete – SBC sustainability committee meeting was held last week. They discussed mechanical systems and were supposed to discuss irrigation and stormwater but they ran out of time, so those topics were tabled for a future meeting. The committee is also deciding which LEED certifications to go for.

Bruce – ZBA - no water-related agenda items

Bruce – planning – no update

Kristen – EDC – she is helping them with marketing brief templates and guidance. One of their goals is to increase the number of daytime visitors which lessens the infrastructure burden to the town.

Jackie – not present – no update.

Open discussion

Dec minutes – Kristen moved to approve, second from Joanne, approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Monday 2/12 at 7pm – location TBD.

WRC recap for town annual report is due 2/14. Bruce will draft and circulate for review, and will then present to SB.

Adjourn