

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Location: Town Hall, small meeting room

Date: February 12, 2024, 6:30 PM



Members present:

1. Bruce Arbonies, Chair
2. Emily Simmer, Secretary (arrived 7pm)
3. Kristen Jamski
4. Peter Weafer (arrived 7pm)
5. Jacqueline Bohn

Members absent:

1. Joanne Wyckoff

Others present:

Bob Delorenzo

William H Ohrenberger III, attorney with Ohrenberger Delisi & Harris LLP

George Humphrey, Treasurer, James Landing Condominium Association

W. Eric Kluz, President, James Landing Condominium Association

Call to order

Water System Updates

No one from the Water Department was available and we did not get an update via email before the meeting as requested.

Desalination Subcommittee update

Bob DeLorenzo gave an update. We are preparing for a Select Board update on 2/27. We have MIT engagement, with 4 other coastal Towns/Organizations. We're hoping to make Scituate a test case for other Massachusetts and national coastal communities. There has been a change in our focus, based on MIT feedback, from creating more drinkable water to replacing drinkable water used for non-drinking purposes with "good enough" water. They've asked for some data that we need the Water Dept to provide.

Proposal for handling multi-unit residential building water system hook-ups

James Landing Condominium Association members and their attorney would like us to make a recommendation to the Select Board regarding fair water billing/payment. Since multiple units are on one meter, residents pay higher usage-tier rates even though their unit may not be using excess water. They looked into installing individual meters and got an estimate of \$120k for 50 units across 5 buildings. They feel they are paying about 2x what they should be in water usage fees. This is an unintended consequence of the Town's aggressive tiered water pricing.

We need to find out how many other places in Town are in this situation. Maybe there are different solutions for short- and long-term. Long-term having everyone on smart meters is ideal, but something needs to be done in the interim. Bruce to speak with Kevin about some options and staff effort to deal with manual work-arounds.

Rain Barrel sale

Ordering deadline is March 24. Have the town send an email Feb 19. Bruce will update our page and give Jim some highlights for weekly updates. Emily to check with Joanne about the boy scout leader to see if scouts might be

interested in helping people install rain barrels. Or high school students looking for community service hours. Emily to create a flyer.

A week after Town email goes out we can send one to the people who have ordered rain barrels in the past. Bruce is on it.

Check to see if there is still money available for the rebate program.

Liaison updates

Pete – SBC sustainability committee meeting – missed meeting but it sounds like this conversation is happening and abutters are involved. Talking about an athletic field.

Bruce – ZBA – no properties inside the Water Resource Protection District

Bruce – planning – no update

Kristen – EDC – mentioned rain barrel sale – suggested we send the email to the chamber of commerce Jane Norton and she will distribute as well.

Jackie – no update

Open discussion

27th of Feb updating SB on Desal stuff.

Minutes – approved unanimously.

Next meeting Tuesday March 19 6:30pm.

Adjourn