

Water Resources Commission

Tuesday, May 21 2019

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jacqueline Bohn, Becky Malamut, Joanne Wyckoff, Kevin Finney

Non-board member attendee: Martha Cook

Absent: John Boehmke; Shirley Young

Agenda Item 1: Call to order

Agenda Item 2: Water connection fee proposal:

- Owner of a multi-family rental property has two options:
 - Install one meter per unit
 - Pay connection fee for each unit but have the option of a master meter to streamline billing and meet Town Counsel's concerns re: requiring landlord to charge tenants for water
- Town Counsel suggests price of \$14,000 is too high (\$14,000 is current fee per BOS vote in the fall). But consist with Groton.
 - Groton requires one meter per unit but the fee is \$4,000
 - Cohasset's rules and regs requires one meter for all new apartment units but in practice they allowed Avalon (rental) to install master meter. Avalon then installed its own submeters and charged renters directly.
 - Hanover has exceeded water use permit for several years in a row. Enacting new water use restrictions according to Boston Globe. Hanover adding new housing and have overdrawn their limit.
- Question of a number of Greenbush developments making their way through Planning Board
- Becky made a motion to present the two options listed above to the BOS. Deb seconded, all in favor

Meeting then adjourned to BOS room where Becky presented proposal. See BOS minutes online, https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/scituatema/files/minutes/20190521_bos_minutes.pdf

Agenda Item 3: Water System Update

- A. O Country Way - Joseph Puleio presented

- 1.3 acres, assessed value \$209,000. Have owned the land since his parents and is now paying taxes. Would like town to buy it for conservation land. Provides wetlands for other side of the street.
- Does not meet requirements for buildable lot
- Neighbor not interested.
- Town donation? Not worth it.
- Talked through questions, solutions and next steps. Joseph to send property map or site survey to WRC. We will then vote on whether or not we want to provide a letter of support

B. Water Department Update

- New assistant Mark Cloud started yesterday.
- Continuing to flush while we have the water - today was Maple street, First Parish and some side streets off of First Parish.
- Will continue flushing as long as we are spilling over naturally which we are still.
- Ice pigging completed for this round and very successful at removing sediment.
- Usage is beginning to clime as the weather is finally showing us the sun.
- Treatment plant is doing well - I know I need to work on an open house- Eric wanted some more time cleaning up. The work performed this winter left us a bit of housekeeping to do. I'll reach out soon.
- 18 B pilot study completed but waiting to hear from DEP.

C. Brown Water Update

- Tighe & Bond was awarded water system study. Scope of 4-6 months.

D. 436 CJC HWY

I. 436 CJC: Would like to sell to town.

- Assessed value of over \$300k. Greg Morse has been hired by owners to design septic system plan as current system needs to be updated. If developer does not buy property than they may be open to purchase through CPC funding.

Agenda Item 4: Science Spectacular Feedback

- Feedback elicited from attendees – Martha, Joanne and Kevin. Morning session was relatively well attended, they were able to pull people in to discuss the water system. A few people left their names with comments on brown water. No visitors to the booth during the afternoon session.

Agenda Item 5: Outdoor Water Use Restriction & Enforcement

- Increase the fee? Kevin Cafferty: We can make a recommendation to the BOS. Currently \$50 first offense and \$100 for each subsequent.
- Requested a list of top 50 water users to send letter. Waiting. Top 5% of water users are using 80% of water.
- Approaches from other towns discussed

- Rules need to be clarified. Norwell has an intermediate stage before 30% level.
- Don't regulate private wells or rain sensors.
- Becky recommends:
 - Fines: review fines; what do other towns do? Two people come to next meeting with fines (Jacqueline and Joanne)
 - Two other people work on new system of warnings/displays (Deb & Martha)

Agenda Item 6: BMP's for School Fields and Other Municipal Projects.

- Pushed to next meeting

Agenda Item 7: Water Offset Policy

- Pushed to next meeting

Agenda Item 8: Committee Liaison Updates

- Becky: A couple of potential items of interest with Planning Committee. Becky to investigate.
- Joanne has a conflict with School Committee. She will stay on to keep tabs and let Becky know if she sees something that comes up.

Agenda Item 9: Approve Minutes

- Becky moves to approve April minutes submitted via email. Jaqueline seconded. All in favor

Agenda Item 10: Recent Correspondence

- Revised plan for well 17A.

Agenda Item 11: Open discussion – Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 18 (no BOS mtg). Becky to invite BOS liaison to join us to provide feedback on irrigation proposals.

Agenda Item 12: Adjourn 9.57pm