

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 22, 2021

7:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom

Topic

Call to order

Attendees:

Bruce Arbonies

Becky Malamut

Freya Schlegel

Kevin Finney

Emily Simmer

Joanne Wyckoff

Mark Cloud, Water Dept

Sara Grady, NSRWA

Sam Woods, NSRWA

Tom Cook, Tetra Tech

Kate Bentsen

Kyle Harrow

Jack Zarkauskas

Martha Cook

Paul Bartkiewicz

Water system updates – Mark Cloud

- Running TP 4-5 days per week due to low demand, wells supply most of the water
- 3 water main breaks in the last two weeks, some issues with brown water, mainly the older pipes
- 25 streets ID'd to replace water main, starting beginning of April
- Well 17 moving along, 12/21 still the timeline
- Ice skating technically not allowed on the reservoir
- Freya asked about salt water intrusion into Dolan Well Fields in 1983 (she read it in the Water Master Plan) – Mark wasn't sure - Becky to ask Kevin and Sean

Outdoor water use bylaw – updates

Becky reviewed Select Board comments

- Exempt municipal properties based on approval of Select Board / Water Commissioners
- Remove recommendations for private wells because it doesn't belong in a bylaw

Other Comments

- Karen Joseph, "Tier 4 as hard to enforce in the total water ban"
- Sean A – DEP may require Tiers to follow an MA Drought Plan but we think this is covered under our State of Water Supply Conservation and Emergency definitions

Andrew suggested creating a QR code residents can scan to get to a Power Point summarizing major changes, similar to what they're doing for the Pier 44 survey

Based on Jackie's call with Sean, enforcement of the outdoor water use restriction is an issue that has led to confrontations between residents and Water Dept personnel. Becky will arrange a meeting with Andrew and /or Jim B to figure out what to do this summer.

Becky made a motion to approve the bylaw language submitted via email, Joanne seconded, all in favor via roll call.

NSRWA Presentation – Sam Woods, Sara Grady, Tom Cook

Next steps for raising the reservoir project

- State will want more info on our water conservation efforts, including status of the offset policy we're working on - they want to be sure the work they're doing will have longterm benefits and want to see Town's commitment to conservation and mitigation measures
- This project will alter more than 5,000 sq ft of wetlands (30,000 sq ft that already gets wet will be wet for longer periods of time) so will need variance from Wetlands Protection Act and the state wants to see more mitigation. NSRWA will have to get creative to see where there are opportunities in town
- Next step is for NSRWA to sign contract with TertaTech. Then work on responses to DEP concerns and FEIR to be submitted mid-summer. Hopefully go out for bids next spring. – First 6 months will be FEIR, second 6 months will be permitting

Our water is largely from First Herring Brook watershed – we believe Dolan Well Fields will pull from a different basin - Becky to confirm.

Water Conservation PSA Grants

- Relatively small grant, \$25k-ish
- Scituate, Hingham, Norwell and one other Town, they will make a 5th video with a regional focus
- Video to highlight Water supplier, fire fighter, kid with his/her pet. Emphasize that water is not for lawns
 - o List so far includes Sean Andreson, Chief Murphy, Jim Boudreau, Karen Canfield, Brian Houlihan (restaurateur), Animal Shelter, Doctor from South Shore Hospital, Farmer
- Sponsored ads on social media, will direct people to take the pledge to not water lawns and become eligible for lawn signs
- Project must be complete by June 31, hope to complete videos by April 1, start campaign May 15

Gardening Green Expo will be held virtually (again), last week of March. Rain barrel and composter sale starting next week.

Red Fescue and Zoysia are drought tolerant grasses but need soil that can support it

Water conservation outreach strategy

Facebook page – we can use the Town's FB page

Clover & rain barrel giveaways – looking at April 10 as pickup date, Becky to confirm and coordinate with Town

Pool owners – Becky mentioned Andrew G's suggestion to schedule "Fill Up Fridays" where pool

owners can sign up to have their pools topped off throughout the summer so they don't have to use their hoses. Martha recommended that we talk to pool fillers and builders, not just maintenance companies.

Emily suggested putting videos on backburner for now, since NSRWA is managing the broader video through the grant. She will schedule a meeting with the Harbormaster to learn more about how the marins work and to review some of our suggestions, such as adding restrictors to hoses, posting signage, and encouraging people to water for 2 minutes only

- For restaurants, we could reach out to Chamber of Commerce, provide flyer or something for restaurants to display and educate patrons

Approve January minutes

Bruce made motion to approve the minutes Becky submitted via email. Joanne seconded. All in favor via roll call

Recent correspondence

Water Master Plan – Becky reviewed her notes on the most recent draft, specifically how future projections are calculated and the fact the we don't have water for more development until our infrastructure is fixed (earliest 12/21 for Well 17A)

Becky reviewed notes from her call with Jessi Finney, re: Library grant for education and signage in the new garden. Programming will be...

- quarterly lectures for adults, gardening tips etc
- 6 week series of hands-on activities with children
- upcycled art series and discussion series for teens
- They are installing gutters to help with some gw issues and that should allow them to use rain barrels for the garden

Open discussion

Becky reviewed her notes from Stephanie Burke's citizens petition proposal to the Select Board, Mandate & Rebate Program proposal.

Adjourn