

**WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, March 15, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Topic

**Call to order**

Attendees:

Becky Malamut  
Bruce Arbonies  
Freya Schlegel  
Emily Simmer  
Jaqueline Bohn  
Kevin Finney  
Joanne Wyckoff

Mark Cloud  
Kate Bentsen  
Andrew Goodrich  
Kristen McGrath  
Darlene Bradlee

**Water system updates**

Water Department update – Mark Cloud

- +2.25” Tack Factory Pond – it was +5” 2-3 weeks ago, hopefully not sign of a dry spring
- Flushing started last week – seeing lots of clean water coming out of Minot and N Scituate
- 4A (2” galvanized) Water Main project to start in April – bids going out for the 8” 8’ next
- Hoping to get 18B online for the summer, need to find somewhere to put residuals, 200,000 gpd
- Becky asked about how they’re handling the fact that there’s no water for new builds, hoping to bring 17 and 18B back online, hoping new rate structure will help

NSRWA presentation Streamflow Targets – Kate Bentsen and Sara Grady

- We did not meet streamflow targets late summer / early fall
- How important is it to the outmigration that we don’t meet streamflows in the late summer / early fall? The fish will hang around and can wait until Oct / Nov, but it’s better that they get out of the system early. They did see later outmigration from many sites statewide last year, drought didn’t help. Sept is typical for outmigration
  - o How detrimental to the population is it to have 5 years in a row when we don’t meet targets at end of summer / early fall? We do continue to see fish every year and improvements we plan for the system will help
- When did we cut it off last year? June 29 – reservoir was at 14” down = 38.8.
  - o Sara was brought in on the conversation to end releases last summer – the level started to decrease very quickly, the slope of the line was plunging
- How do you all feel the process went last year?
  - o She thinks it’s going really well, good to have the communication in place and have the data to look at together
  - o She felt good making these decisions based on data

- Each year should be approached individually, don't set a precedent based on what they did last year

### **Outdoor water use bylaw - Becky**

Advisory committee support

- Atleast 2 members made comments about private wells being connected to public water supply

We can post PPT to our website once the Warrant is issued

### **Water conservation outreach strategy**

Clover & rain barrel giveaways

- Volunteers to help on April 10<sup>th</sup> – Becky to create and circulate a schedule
- Outreach – FB, town websites, NSRWA emails, press releases to local papers
- Freya working on additional installation / how to's to include with the barrels
- Andrew – Clover seeds on the way, we're getting 25 pounds and will break into smaller bags to include with rain barrels

Pool owners

- Becky shared her notes from call with South Shore Pool Supply owner. Definite support for creating a program where residents can sign up for pool filling throughout the season, but we'll need to work with a filling company to make it happen. Becky contacted one company, waiting on return email / call.

Boat owners

- Becky and Emily shared notes from their call with the Harbormaster, Steve Mone. He posted signage last year when we were in the Total Ban and personally told boat owners to stop using the hoses during this time. He was open to the idea of getting more signage from the town and to include content in his newsletters.

Conservation outreach – next steps

- Add info to Town's weekly updates
- Graphs and visuals on the website, FB posts, Town emails
- Videos – Darlene joined us to review the rain barrel videos she's working on with Emily. Becky to see if we can host the videos on the Town website
- Business "certification" - Kevin and Joanne to come up with a basic proposal for our next meeting. Is it operational? Do they just sign a pledge on our website?

### **Library Grant – Elizabeth Holthaus**

"Dig In" Grant – two key issues to address are promoting drought resistant lawns and gardening best practices, and using native plants

Money will cover lecture series – at least one will be "going grassless" – hands-on series and materials (plants).

If we get the funds, programming would start this fall and run through 2022

The garden is a separate project but grant will provide signage, some plants, etc

They will be looking for speakers and presenters

Becky made motion to accept the Letter of Support circulated via email. Emily seconded. All in favor via roll call.

**Water offsets update – Becky and Bruce**

WRC members comfortable with 1:1 offset and we know Town Counsel will like it better

Bruce's worksheet puts it on the Water Dept, basically, to figure out how to evaluate renovations and commercial entities

Becky to bring the proposal to Select Board for comments, thoughts, and resources to take next steps.

**Approve February minutes**

- Bruce will send correct spelling of grasses
- Becky made a motion to accept the minutes circulated via email with correct spelling of grasses. Kevin seconded. All in favor via roll call vote.

**Recent correspondence**

BOH reached out to Becky last week – they now have a full Board and would like to hear our presentation re: private well regs. Freya mentioned that it's unclear if they're permitting irrigation wells, so it might be worth going to the meeting just to better understand that. Members agreed that we should take the meeting.

Planning Board shared plans for 533 Country Way ANR – 2 lots, shared driveway, located in the WRPD

- Existing dwelling, barn and septic to be removed. Adding 2 new septic systems -- Not sure about septic systems in the WRPD but assumption is that if they have one now they can have one in the new plans.

**Open discussion**

Next meeting – April 7 at 7pm

**Adjourn**