

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

7:00 PM

Remote Participation via Zoom

Topic

Call to order

Attendees:

Becky Malamut

Bruce Arbonies

Freya Schlegel

Emily Simmer

Joanne Wyckoff

Water system updates

Water Department update – Becky read Mark Cloud's email

- Department has been busy shutting off water to homes that have broken pipes from freezing.
- Treatment Plant is only needed every other day to meet demand.
- Well 17 completion has been extended until February 14th due to radios for communication are still not available.
- Winter Pilot Study for new treatment plant is scheduled to start February 7th.
- Hope to regenerate the filter carbon at treatment plant in March, this will help with the THM's next summer.
- Foreseeing potential delays with materials needed for water main replacement in Humarock and Phase 5. Celco Construction will be back in the Spring to complete last year work.
- Dolan Wells – have a proposal from Weston & Sampson to build a wtp at this site

Brown water update – from Mark's email

Very few reports of Brown Water, one on Agawam where the service line is past the fire hydrant so we are unable to flush water main.

Reservoir Project update – Becky Malamut

- Still stalled, working to schedule meeting with Sean, Kevin, Tighe & Bond to discuss WEAP model

Develop WTP outreach strategy for Town Meeting

Becky showed slides from recent Select Board meeting:

- 47% increase to water rates, or increase property tax
- If we get other funding, could be as low as \$360 for the first year then decrease.
- If no additional funding, \$500 for first year then decrease from there.

Outreach ideas:

- Letter to the editor

- FB posts
- Water bill stuffers with quick facts that point residents to the / water site.
- Becky to look into the status of Tighe & Bond communications person – was this position added back into the contract (originally removed to lower costs)?

Need to be sure there's O&M included in the building plan.

Offsets & Rebate programs update

Discussed potential issues with the Irrigation System Removal Rebate. Will strengthen language

Becky reported that her presentation to the Select Board went well. They asked for time to better understand the program and for Jim to come back with a possible dollar amount needed to fund the position. Hope to finalize at a Select Board meeting in early Feb

Next steps for 2022 projects:

Greywater reuse - Freya

- Freya presented her research thus far – MA codes, feedback from Planning Dept, existing projects in Kingston and Gillette Stadium
- Next steps - Find other towns in MA that allow it and copy their language

Collateral for spring outreach

- Pool owners & Fill Fridays - Becky
 - o Brochure or bullet points for pool supply companies to circulate
 - o General outreach through FB etc
- Boats and marinas - Jackie and Emily
 - o Harbormaster, yacht clubs, Bulman marine, private marinas
 - o Keep it simple
- Restaurants – Becky to add details to doc created last spring
- Info on roof catchment systems for property owners with existing inground irrigation systems and Public Housing - Joanne

BMP doc for municipal buildings and public housing – Tabled until docs above are complete

Municipal Water Infrastructure Investment Fund – Bruce

- Per Nancy, the Water Capitalization Stabilization Fund is this type of fund, est 2015, funded in 2020
- Investment options for stabilizations funds are limited so Bruce will look into a different mechanism that allows for broader investment opportunities and will discuss with Pam, the Town Treasurer.

Becky to reach out to GARB to get a spot in their program

Liaison updates

Planning – Becky – no update

School Comm – Emily – no update

BOH – Jackie not here to report

Zoning – Bruce – 5 Williamsburg Lane

- Lot was built in the 50's but never developed. The property backs into the head of the tributary that runs past the reservoir, it's entirely in the Non-Disturbance Buffer Zone. The town installed a drain pipe directly from Country Way into the swale. ZBA has granted variances for properties in this buffer zone where there are structures already on the property
- Can we request that they offset their impact somewhere else?
- Becky to check in with Planning re: Non-Disturbance Buffer Zone – can we really keep people from building on their property? If not, should we just provide guidance for building in sensitive areas?

Con Comm – Joanne

- 39 Arrowwood – Zoning sent them back to Con Comm. Joanne will keep an eye on the Con Comm agendas.

EDC – Freya

- Kyle Boyd has a few grant programs in the works, none of which involve Water Resources

Approve December minutes

Becky made a motion to approve the December minutes submitted via email. All in favor via roll call vote.

Recent correspondence

None

Open discussion

Bruce asked for update on the Planning Board-Select Board master plan meeting earlier this month. Becky believes they discussed creating a committee to compile and prioritize recommendations from the reports. Becky to reach out to Kyle Boyd and John Clarkson for an update on their work in this area.

Next meeting date – Feb 16

Adjourn