

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
7:00 PM
Small Conference Room, Town Hall

Topic

Call to order

Attendees:

Becky Malamut
Freya Schlegel
Bruce Arbonies
Emily Simmer
Joanne Wykoff
Jacqueline Bohn

Kat Kelley
Bob Delorenzo
Stephen Rafferty
Kevin Cafferty

Water System Updates (out of order from original agenda due to Select Board timing)

WTP update – Stephen Rafferty

- Wrapped up basis of design report, admin work around contracts, finished most of Phase 1
- Reusing green sand filter at current WTP for a pilot manganese contactor at the current WTP.
- What's next:
 - o Route 3A utilities – create / extend pipe from current intake at the wtp to get raw water the new site. Going out to bid in a week. Hope work will start this summer, 300 ft per day, 1 mile of pipe. State paving of 3A is delayed – they want Scituate to pave 3A, not just patch.
 - o Dolan Wells estimate now \$12-\$14 million – too expensive. Was about \$3 million.
 - o May push well water into new WTP if water needs to get cleaned based on evolving MEPA standards.
 - o Biggest concern for new WTP is rising costs. Cement is up 60% for example.
 - o Design contract with Woodard and Curran
 - o First permit is project notice to MEPA, will submit in the next few weeks
 - o W&C team looking at site specific elements – sw mgmt, anything they might need to add / include onsite for potential future testing requirements (PFAS)
 - o Go before Planning & Con Comm in the next few months

Select Board meeting – WRC update

The last time we did this was 1/18/2022. Hoping to make it a more regular update.

Offsets

- Funding for consultant approved April 2022 Town Meeting
- Consultant hired in August to complete this project (commercial entities, mitigation program)
- Goal for completion: October 1 (update to Water Dept Rules & Regs, Town Mtg not needed)

Rebates

- Rebate program approved at Town Meeting (citizens petition)
- Funding to come out of Water Dept Technical Services Dept
- Structure of the program presented to Select Board 1/2022
- Jim has created a draft application. Need to finalize applications and go live
- Goal: March 1

Irrigation system registration

- Plan was to send out a Registration for Inground Irrigation System to all residents with a date that they need to be returned. Private wells to be registered as well
- No fee for registration. Possible fee for not submitting.
- Goal for completion: 6 months

Rainwater capture for municipal fields (to be discussed at a February Select Board meeting)

- WRC has looked into this as an option. We fully support the concept and believe there's potential but work needs to be done to figure out the best system for our fields.
- We recommend that someone within the Town should take the next steps. Suggest presenting this to the DPW, Water Dept and Rec Dept and ask them to come back with proposals.
- Select Board would like Rec Dept to recommend a field to start – WRC to get DPW and Rec together to figure out a test case and report back to Select Board with costs, who else is doing this, etc

Becky stepping down as Chair of the WRC as of Feb 1 – Bruce is the new Chair

Water System Updates continued

Water Department update – Kat Kelley

- Have not run WTP since Christmas Eve
 - o This is the first winter we've had Well 17 online, which has been a huge help
 - o We've had so much water that we don't need to rest the wells to recharge them
- Taking Well 19 offline next month
- Working on a few issues inside the WTP, clearing filters etc – plant has been “running to waste” to adjust and fix these issues
- Kevin hoping to replace transite line on Jericho Rd as part of gas line replacement that needs to happen this year

Brown Water update – Kat Kelley

- Well 17 had a bit of brown water, they are working to deal with this via chemical adjustment. Will take this offline and recharge the filters.

Other – Becky Malamut

- Zoom with other south shore towns to discuss possible connection to MWRA on Feb 3.

Desalination Exploratory Group update – Bob Delorenzo

Reviewed and approved presentation for Jim Boudreau

BMP's for municipal buildings

Reviewed Joanne's document, Becky to send to Andrew for formatting.

Regional Water Commission

Freya – Between the MWRA and Bob's Desalination Committee, there's a lot going on. Bruce and Becky have a meeting with local towns to discuss MWRA expansion, could be a good opportunity to see if people are open to this kind of thing

Liaison updates

Planning Board – Becky

- Laurelwood Estates continued

Zoning – Bruce

- At the Dec meeting (307 OOB, WRPD Zone 2), Bruce raised his Zoom hand to comment on the impervious cover quoted at this meeting which was incorrect (applicant said it was 25% but it's 15%). Bruce met with Zoning before their most recent meeting, they gave Bruce his contact info and he left a message.
- Not attending OOB meetings

EDC – Freya – No relevant update

Con Comm – Joanne

- 33 New Driftway

BOH – Jackie – left before this came up

School Committee – Emily – no update, she will attend next meeting of School Building Committee and provide an update at next WRC meeting.

Approve December minutes

Freya made motion to approve the minutes submitted via email, Bruce seconded, all in favor

Recent correspondence

Town doesn't have bandwidth to interview and swear in new candidates until June, won't post openings until April / May. Lorraine agreed to a FB post so that we can get any interested parties to start coming to meetings etc but won't be able to make it official until June

Open discussion

Next meeting – February 21 at 7pm

Adjourn