

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 15, 2023

7:00 PM

Location: Large Conference Room, Scituate Library



Call to order

Members present:

Bruce Arbonies, Chair

Jacqueline Bohn

Freya Schlegel

Emily Simmer

Joanne Wyckoff

Others present:

Kat Kelley, Water Department

Kristen Jamski, Town Resident

Water System Updates

- Unaccounted for water is down to 8.72% which is much lower than in prior years and expected averages.
- Flushing is done for the season – about 50% of pipes were flushed which is impressive given staffing constraints.
- Manganese contactor going online at current WTP by the end of this month for the pilot study. If this is successful it will be installed on a much larger scale at the new WTP. Limited to 1 MM GPD because of a piping limitation.
- Manganese is already increasing with the warmer temps.
- New WTP permitting is ongoing – stormwater issues have been challenging. But the work is on schedule.
- Building in extra capacity to 3MM GPD so that some of the well water can be filtered through the WTP because of PFAS in wells. Well 17 is the only well with the capacity to filter its own PFAS.
- 3A project starting June 10 in conjunction with extending the main from the old WTP to new WTP site. Complicated because it's a state road.
- Culvert piping options are being explored – work must be completed by November 15.
- PFAS regulations keep being updated and we are paying close attention to ensure new WTP has expandable capacity – keeping up with current regs and continually adapting.
- Stream flows are in line with permit regulations.
- Parts of the Cape are experiencing drought already. So we are hoping for rain!
- Well 17 update – Tighe & Bond came and looked at it and things looked ok. Tonka is the manufacturer – meeting with them and Woodward & Curran on Wednesday. Water is looking better. Manganese is low – suspicion that the tint is from organics – carbon from decomposition of organic matter (leaves, algae, etc.)

Rain Barrel Event Recap

Event went well. 147 Barrels purchased/distributed. Discussed what worked well and how to get the word out next time, and also to meet the demand of walk-ins – how many extras can we afford to order/store? Will shoot for mid-April for next year's event. Which means we should start thinking about it and making preliminary arrangements in February 2024. Had a color mismatch between the orders and what people got. The order Excel sheet matched what was delivered but 3 more people ordered gray than what we had (ended up with 3 more unpainted). Not sure how this happened if we use the Excel file as the control.

Earth Day & Get to Greenbush Event Recaps

- Bruce was at the GAR Hall Earth Day event. A nice event – a number of groups represented including Holly Hill Farm, Scituate Trashed group, a petting zoo with baby goats and bunnies. A few people ordered barrels on Bruce's iPad – maybe 5 barrels sold there.
- Freya and Bruce manned the Untold event table. Only a couple other vendors and not a huge crowd but definitely worth doing. Maybe 20 people filled out raffle tickets.
- Next year we should have rebate program info to share. Any interaction with the community is good.

Desalination Meeting Recap

Desal meeting with Kevin Cafferty and Jim Boudreau. Bob Delorenzo presented his slideshow on the desal exploratory committee. Explained that this is not expected to be a game-changer or to replace any current sources – a small-scale project that could be a possible supplemental water source akin to a new well. Kevin and Jim are interested in learning more. Brockton is going to buy the Dighton desal plant because the state requires them to have 2 water sources. On the agenda for a 5/30 presentation to the select board.

Mission Statement and Priorities

Reviewed document – will update info on website and send a f/u email to rain barrel ppl.

WRC Liaison Updates

- Bruce – ZBA – April 20 meeting:
 - 12 Old Country Way, property in zone A, limit 20% of the property with impervious cover. This house was about 60% impervious and that was decreased but still way over the regulation. There is an additional bldg on the property they want to redo even though impervious cover is already out of compliance (grandfathered). ZBA approved. They do not have a catchment system – Bruce sent a note to Patty on planning board suggesting they require one be added.
 - 224 CJC Hwy – zone 2 adjusted setback – also approved.
- Joanne – ConCom – issuing fines for excessive tree cutting etc.
- Emily – SBC – wetlands were discovered on Hatherly site – SBA working with Con Com to get a variance if they decide to build there. Current designs wouldn't infringe much on the buffer zone; only one design would have the building in the buffer zone; others are just driveway.
- Freya – Planning
 - 817 Country Way development proposed near N Scituate train station – many concerns about water and septic.
 - 7 McDonald Terrace – Greenbush – 20 unit proposal – in water protection district
- Jackie – BOH – no update

Approve prior meeting's minutes

April minutes approved unanimously

Open discussion

Reservoir expansion – Bruce trying to contact engineer in charge of project – still some things to work out with Kevin. Dam on reservoir needs to be rebuilt regardless to meet compliance so this seems like a no-brainer to move forward.

Adjourn