

## **WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

7:00 PM

Small Conference Room, Scituate Library



#### **Call to order**

##### **Members present:**

Bruce Arbonies, Chair

Freya Schlegel

Emily Simmer

Joanne Wyckoff

##### **Others present:**

Kat Kelley (via phone), Scituate Water Department

#### **Water System Updates**

- Cold snap in February caused some water main leaks. The worst one, in Humarock, was fixed in 5 hours.
- Issues continue at well 17A with the treatment process. Manganese levels are fine but water is still discolored.
- Demand is low and wells are delivering a good yield, so WTP (Water Treatment Plant) has not been running much.
- Bids go out 3/1 for the raw water main project on 3A (pumping raw water to treatment plant site). Work to be completed this spring.
- Work is ongoing rehabbing the 2 water tanks. Long term plan is to build a new tank at Maple St and remove the older one from that site.
- New well sites are being explored in the West End with a goal of doing 3 test wells to expand supply.
- Continued exploration of financial and water feasibility of Dolan Well field filtration needs.
- Manganese contactor filter at the WTP test study is ongoing
- A spring flushing program looks promising as we have a good supply. Will delay flushing until the vessels at WTP have been cleaned so it will be most effective.
- Water dept is watching for new/increasing PFAS regulations and building that capacity into future planning for new WTP and other sites.

#### **MWRA Meeting Update**

Bruce attended the MWRA (Massachusetts Water Resources Authority) meeting where there was a presentation on how various South Shore towns might be able to join up to get water and/or sewer services. Water distribution process would take 10-20 years and cost about \$1.25 billion. Not likely a worthwhile investment for Scituate. MWRA determined they don't have the capacity to take on substantial South Shore sewer volume. Brockton trying to buy the desalinization plant from Dighton for \$57MM. Union Point is interested in the MWRA water option, but if that does not happen they are interested in desalinization.

#### **Liaison Updates**

Bruce – ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals):

- 7 New Driftway hearing was postponed
- 161 Captain Peirce, restricted zone 2 – aware of 15% impervious cover regulation – adding dry well

Joanne – Conservation Commission (Con Com) – no update

Freya – Economic Development Commission (EDC) – no update

Jackie – Board of Health (BOH) – not present

Emily – School Committee/School Building Committee (SBC):

- Attended SBC meeting on 2/8/23 and will attend the rest of the meetings scheduled for this spring
- First step is choosing site – only current Cushing and Hatherly sites are currently under consideration. Cushing is partly in water protection zone but Hatherly is out of our purview.
- Will provide input on site selection and all phases of design process and strongly encourage water catchment, graywater reuse, waterwise features, conservation efforts with educational component. Vote likely not until spring 2024, construction not until 2026-27.

#### **WRC Liaison Assignments and Support Tasks**

- Bruce to continue with ZBA
- Emily to continue with SBC; will monitor agendas for regular School Committee meetings
- Emily to act as Secretary
- EDC agendas will be monitored for water related topics
- Jackie expected to continue with BOH
- Likely Joanne will continue with Con Com and Freya will switch to Planning – will finalize
- Jackie remains in the Vice Chair role pending further discussion with 100% attendance.

#### **Approve January Minutes**

All in attendance voted to approve

#### **Open Discussion**

- Spring Rain Barrel sale – Bruce will look into available dates and getting this going
- Next meeting set for Tuesday, March 14, 7pm
- List of priorities was revisited – Bruce to update and recirculate

#### **Adjourn**