

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 20, 2023

7:00 PM

Location: Book Club Room, Scituate Public Library



Call to order

Members present:

Bruce Arbonies, Chair

Jacqueline Bohn

Freya Schlegel

Emily Simmer

Joanne Wyckoff

Others present:

Bob DeLorenzo, head of newly formed Desalination Subcommittee

Kristen Jamski, town resident interested in water issues and conservation

Water System Updates

- Tack Factory Pond is +3"
- Reservoir is +2"
- Rainfall was 1.2" measured at TP
- Demand for past week:
 - Wells: 10,370,000 gallons
 - TP: 2,510,000 gallons
 - Total: 12,880,000 gallons or 1,840,000 gallons per day
- PFAS regulations are being strengthened and new types being monitored/regulated – will continue to follow, ensure new plant will have capacity to handle, and implement interim solutions.
- 3A pipe replacement from current WTP to new site is on schedule.
- Water dept continues to be way understaffed with another key staff departure. All operators working too much overtime already and won't be able to send a rep to our meetings at least this summer in the height of the busy season and with all the work going on. Will send updates via email. Kevin says if we have our meetings Tuesday evenings at Town Hall he will join and give us updates, answer questions, etc.

Select Board Desalination Presentation Recap

- Select Board approved formation of a WRC subcommittee to study the potential for a desalination process for Scituate
- Desal subcommittee has 6 members (including Bob DeLorenzo – chair), and Select Board asked for them to add 2 more from the community. Freya to serve as WRC liaison.
- Member contact at Scripps Institute of Oceanography – will discuss research and hopefully connect to the desal work at MIT.
- Next steps – arrange visit to Hatherly CC to see their operation – discuss project scope, technology, efficacy, contacts.
- Things they are looking into – brine/discharge, etc.
- Hoping to set up a visit to the Dighton desal plant in the next month or so – Bruce to coordinate with Kevin; hopefully Kat from water dept can join as she had expressed interest.
- Bruce had distributed the draft Charter for the subcommittee to WRC members prior to meeting. At meeting, a couple of small semantic changes were made and document was finalized. Accepted by unanimous vote (Freya motioned, Joanne seconded, Emily and Bruce voted yes; Jackie was not there for vote).

Annual Public Water Resources Forum

- Maybe do in September, October, or November – more ppl around and less likely to be distracted by great weather.
- For 2024, let's do it in spring and combine with rain barrel PR (maybe Sept 2023 and early April 2024). We're planning to do rain barrels in late April and sales get cut off 2 weeks before the delivery date so let's plan accordingly.
- Keep the panel small – Sam Woods or other NSRWA designee; Kat or other water dept designee; Patti from Planning Board; Andrew from Select Board.
- In person or via zoom? Let's do zoom – better attendance and acoustics so those who can't attend can watch the recording.
- FAQs – maybe draft some and post online ahead of time?
- Date was set for 9/19/23, 6:30pm. Emailed Andrew to confirm he can participate.
- Potential topics -
 - WTP
 - Reservoir spillway raising project
 - Development concerns
 - Brown water/drought
 - Ask town/water dept what questions they get regularly
 - Encourage residents to report leaks to minimize unaccounted for water. Water Dept is very responsive to reports of leaks.
 - Update on pipe replacement and other infrastructure
 - Flushing program – what was flushed this spring, when flushing next and where.

Liaison Updates

Planning board – Freya: CPC affordable housing money to help us get to our 10% affordable units. 2 vacancies on ZBA. MBTA compliance meeting on 6/22 regarding the walkable units near the commuter rail stops. For some reason if there is commercial space on a unit's ground floor those units don't count toward the quota due to something in our zoning bylaws – it is being looked into.

BOH – Jackie – no update

Joanne – Con Com – no update

SBC – Emily – options for layouts for new school were voted on to send to MSBA. All are at Hatherly site (Cushing had serious grading/slope issue which would be expensive as well as inconvenient, and the impact on that small neighborhood with a doubled school population was deemed too great). All designs have a wetlands compliance score of 3/5 which isn't bad – very few options had a 4 rating (5 being best) and those designs had other challenges. They are working with Con Com (Conservation Agt Amy Walkey has verified wetlands location) to minimize impact on the buffer in the new design.

Zoning – Bruce – 5 homes from Minot fire were approved for rebuilding. 12 Old Country Way – Zone A – impervious cover limit – house was built before the bylaw. Reducing footprint and renovating – putting in storm basin.

Approve Minutes

May meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Open discussion

Rebate program was announced in town weekly update and info will be distributed to residents.