

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 4, 2022
7:00 PM
Small Conference Room, Scituate Library

Topic

1. Call to order

Attendees:

Becky Malamut
Jackie Bohn
Freya Schlegel
Joanne Wyckoff
Bruce Arbonies
Emily Simmer

Kat Kelley
Bob DeLorenzo
Kim Litchfield
Stephen Bjorkland

2. Water System Updates

Water Department update – Kat

- Weekly production - Wells 5.5 mg, WTP 2.7 mg
- Well 22 is offline for maintenance, redeveloping, should be back online this week
- Demand down to 1.1.6 mgd
- Still trying to reduce WTP usage, currently running it 2x per week
- Will be redeveloping one of our smaller producing wells next (Well 11?)
- Major algae bloom over the last few weeks which has caused an odor in the water
- Starting to talk about lifting the water ban but we are still in Level 2 drought and having trouble recharging esp at the reservoir
 - o Manganese contactor pilot study to be conducted this winter which will require some extra water but will be a potential a solution for brown water next spring / summer
- Water Dept requested change language in the Water Conservation Bylaw to say “designee” in place of “Town Admin”.

Brown Water update – Kat

- Manganese is low – 0.08 in raw water, 0.06 in treated water
- No flushing program this fall because is supply is relatively low, hope to resume in the spring

WTP update

- Freya suggested that we keep residents updated throughout the process – let people know when hearings will be held and what will be discussed. Becky to share with Woodard & Curran team.

- WRC liaisons to attend their respective meetings and report back. We can post notes on the Water Resource Update page
- Question about Town PR person. Is that happening? Becky to follow-up.
- What about desalination? Bob Delorenzo met with someone doing a small scale desal project at Hatherly (500k gpd) – they have a pond on-site that “got briny”.
 - o Need to understand what type of plant would serve a town like us and what that would cost
 - o He has a group of names, people who are “anxious” about this issue. They will do the research, report back to WRC, and we can then help them figure out next steps.
 - o Freya offered to be their liaison to the WRC

3. BMP’s for municipal buildings – 1st on the agenda next month, Joanne will update the doc and send for review.

4. Rainwater capture for recreational fields

Becky reported that Andrew Goodrich asked the WRC to look into the best way to spend the \$200,000 Town has to implement rainwater capture projects at recreational fields.

Bruce volunteered to make some calls, start with Ipswich River Watershed Association.

Freya volunteered to reach out to Rec and Little League for feedback on what’s possible at each field, projects they may have in mind, etc.

Review at next meeting and make recommendation to Select Board

5. Liaison updates

Board of Health – Jackie – No update

Economic Development Committee – Freya – SHARK (aka Pier 44), \$2-3 million (not a CPC project) gazebo, park, parking, raised toilets and there could be an opportunity for rainwater capture. Will go before Town Meeting in April.

Conservation Commission – Joanne – No update

Planning – Becky – Final plans for 7 New Driftway submitted and will be reviewed 10/13

Zoning – Bruce – Next hearing for 5 Williamsburg Lane will be Oct 20. Bruce and Becky can’t be there, Freya volunteered to go. Peer review was complete but not clear what they think of the quality of the review.

School Committee – Emily – No update. They will start to talk about plans for new elementary school, we’ll share Joanne’s BMPs, etc.

6. Approve September minutes – Tabled for next month.

7. Recent correspondence - None

8. Open discussion

Stephen Bjorkland, local developer - ZBA having some difficulty granting variance for projects in the WRPD's 150 ft Nondisturb Buffer Zone (ie. 5 Williamsburg Lane).

- Requested that we change bylaw to allow for building in this area under certain conditions.
- Bylaw says you can't touch vegetation in this area but people cut their lawns all the time
- He would also be happy to have the WRC support consultants' reports that look at technologies proposed in these areas to allow for building while protecting the resource
- Becky let him know that the role of the WRC is to protect our water resources. Will continue to follow 5 Williamsburg Lane proposal.

9. Adjourn