Scituate Water Resources Committee

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Call to order; 7:41, Becky

Present; Members Becky, John, Shirley, Martha

2)Rain Barrel Program Update; Martha

Room for improvement in program in general. Need to order more and keep in stock reliably

3)Water System Update; nobody attended but an update sent via email. Well #22, satisfying. Pump test promising. Perhaps a satellite could be useful.

Reservoir at full capacity. Fish gates have not needed to be opened yet. Wells and plant are meeting current demand. New green sand filter to take out manganese. Pilot study shows promise for good treatment.

How is a new development of homes approved? We believe Sean or Kevin cooperate with Planning Board to decide. Does the town need a moratorium to happen in order to provide a safety buffer so we don’t get low on water again in case of a drought similar to ’16?

DEP allotment is 1.83 million. We could possibly produce more or less, depending on the wells. Can we get a projection from Laura Harbottle and Planning for a projection of new homes that will change

( increase) our water use? We’d like to ask Ann Burbine &/or Steve Pritchard about this.

What is exact current consumption? We’d have to get # from Sean A in water department. (We’d like to see broad historic details.)

We do know that in the summers, our consumption roughly doubles.

State data shows drought occurrences & levels back to the ‘60s is a good reason to raise our reservoir.

In communicating with S. Pritchard we would like to compute potential need by adding our current typical use to the potential use of permitted homes. If it is near our maximum withdrawal, then is it time to stop development?

Agreed to communicate with Maura C and Steve P for answers.

New proposals for multi-family units whether owner occupied or rentals… we do know about 225 on 3A opposite from Safety Center

30 Condos in Greenbush (behind Morning Glories) may be rentals?

75 more at Stockbridge Woods, 15 near Norwell line

This is about 345 new homes with an average of 1.5 people/per/unit

It is possible 517, give or take, new residents multiplied by 65 gallons per day maximum suggested withdrawal equals 33,637 gallons.

If the Proving Ground proposed units are also built, there could be between 225-280 more units. (22,000-27,000 more gallons per day)

We’d like to know from Sean A : what was best production at optimum time? What is production now? We’d like more accurate number of gallons of our well capability. Once we have these answers, we’d be able to share with the BOS.

4) Meter Policy Next Steps; We know from Laura H that there is new development on horizon. We don’t want the water department to lose money if there is a meter policy change that might include sub meters. What is the state law on this?

5)Timeline review, Set priorities

Should we suggest a rate study? It could cost $20,000 or more.

Is this the best use of $20,000? \*Best use of our time and energy?

Need to ask Maura and Sean: Is the town going to have lots of new rentals? Discussed adding a new pricing tier for higher users. Could exemptions be granted for some users? Is there clear benefit to sub metering? What if meters were read every month during peak time? Monthly billing would give more timely feedback. \* Would $20,000 pay for summer interns to read meters?

Discussed desire to get more frequent and helpful updated information from Maura and Sean. Possibly conference call with them? Ongoing long range projects with results seen in ’18-’19?

6) Open Discussion: Reservoir Project Update:Fisheries, State, need to weigh in on ideas with Tom Cook. They did not attend his meeting. SWMI grant coming up, final report from Tom C due soon.

Should we move day and time of meetings? When/ where?

Decided to send flowers/ card to Deb M who is in treatment

Will potential additional sport fields added to the Cushing School/ High School area require irrigation?

Members should check the Water page for adding more conservation tips.

7)Minutes from previous meeting approved

8)No correspondence

9) Meeting adjourned at 9:50

Next meeting will be on July 25