**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**4/25/2017 MINUTES**

**Attendees**

Committee Members:

Deb Smith-Mooney

Martha Cooke

Shirley Young

John Boehmke

Other:

Al Bangert

Tom Cook

Kevin Caffery

Mike Kwiecien

**Call to Order – 7:37pm**

**Water System Update, Mike K**

Ready to start implementing water ban, will start posting signs this week.

Reservoir is spilling over, 4” over Reservoir, 8” over fish ladder.

Per Kevin, 123 rotary pipe replacement will start after the school year, contract is for installation to be complete by the end of 2017.

Water Dept gave 6th graders from Inly a tour of the water dept. Public school had to cancel because no handicapped access. Tour was a success.

**Meter Policy Update**

Al Bangert provided his comments. The Town can not bill tenant in a rental unit for the water use per MA state tenancy law for rental units, where landlords have to pay water bill directly to utility. It does not make sense to have one connection per unit for rental units. He sees larger benefit from reading meters more regularly and billing more frequently so people can really make a change

Becky provided feedback from her call with Sean Anderson. His primary concern is the Water Department’s budget and he thinks a rate study is essential before making a change

Results of committee members calls to surrounding towns:

* Shirley: Hanover – meter policy by ownership, water rate based on meter size and usage, no developer issues
* Martha: Cohasset – one meter per living space but a place like Avalon has one meter per building, which then has submeter, developer reads those submeters; passed through town meeting in 2015; different costs based on the size of the meter; owner pays for all maintenance on the service lines and pipes, not the town; they have an unmetered usage fee for units that are on a submeter

Other ideas:

- Al: Require a submeter through the building code, meters themselves don’t cost much, still pay water bill through the main meters, but landlords etc could see usage for leaks, etc

- Kevin: Significantly increase rates for high water users

Becky proposed 3 options for a vote

* Option 1: Continue with the policy – rate study and new development study
* Option 2: No change
* Option 3: Require meter through building code, for monitoring and conservation only, no change in water billing. Could we require meter readable by the town’s radio, we just don’t turn it on.
* Option 4: Bill more frequently, which would also require rate study to determine new tiers for monthly building
* Option 5: Education

Becky made a motion to vote to continue our work on a one meter per unit policy. John seconded.

* John: Continue, must be done in rate neutral way
* Shirley: Continue
* Martha: Table it
* Deb: Recommend one meter one unit, figure out how to make it work
* Becky: Continue conversation, develop timeline for our work to determine what’s needed to push this through

**Reservoir Project Update - Tom Cook**

Approx 15 attendees at Public Meeting, including abutters. Tom is Working on conservation notice of intent and hopes to present to Con Comm for public hearing in middle of May. Second public meeting in June, hopes to have 60% design drawings to present

Next Step: File NOI, MEPA Process then wait. Then Env Impact Report. Then secure funding for construction (8-900,000).

**New Committee Appointments**

Secretary: Becky nominated Shirley. Martha suggested rotating note taker but still have a secretary. Becky suggested rotating note taker who will also submit the notes, Becky to then circulate for approval. Start with whoever’s name starts alphabetically. Seconded by Deb. All in favor.

Vice Chair: Becky nominated Martha, Deb seconded, All in favor.

**Approve Minutes**

Becky moved to approve minutes from 3/28/2017 and 10/25/2016. Deb and John seconded.

**Water Conservation Proactive Measures**

Becky presented Water Conservation Tips page on the WRC page. This includes tips for water conservation and links to Al’s video. Any updates to the irrigation ban or tips related to the ban can also be found here.

May 1 irrigation ban reminder complete, signs posted, email from town, and posted on town home page.

Martha provided update on rain barrel project. The Town has ordered new barrels and Troop 7 Boy Scouts are on-board to help with installation. Martha has created a brochure / one-pager that WRC and Bow Scouts will use to advertise.

Martha reached out to Harbor Master for suggestions for things we can do beyond signage. Harbormaster will ask people to use trigger nozzles.

**Recent Correspondence - None**

**Open Discussion - None**

Becky moved to Adjourn at 10:16pm, Shirley second