Water Resources Committee – Meeting minutes – September 26, 2017

**Attendees**

Committee Members: Visitors:

 - Chair Kevin Cafferty – Director, DPW

Martha Cook Sean McCarthy – Supervisor, DPW

Shirley Young

John Boehmke

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM
2. Kevin and Sean provided an explanation of how the water department determines whether there is adequate water and water pressure to allow new development to proceed
	1. Toll Brothers was approved in 2015 and then again this year based on Scituate’s average annual consumption being below DEP permitted level of water usage.
	2. Sean presented data showing that actual water production from wells is about 2/3 of our permitted levels.
	3. The possibility of doing a study based on actual supply and demand and using hydraulics and modeling was discussed, but DPW said it is not in budget and not planned. DPW has agreed to ask Toll Brothers to do an additional study using our 3rd party experts.
	4. DPW talked about improvements that they hope will offset the increase due to Toll Bros including the reservoir expansion, Dolan well and greensand filter, but funding for and timing for completion of these projects is unknown
	5. There was discussion about whether there is any new request that DPW would decline, and the answer seemed to be only at the DEP permitted level regardless of whether we can actually produce that amount of water during July & August
3. Committee members discussed water offsets. This is the term we will now use rather than water banking because research showed that water banking has many different meanings. We have chosen this area to focus our efforts.
	1. Becky presented some new information:
		1. 4 towns that have implemented offset plans
		2. The Emerson test is a useful way to determine whether a plan can be successful
	2. Our next goal is to draft a strawman plan and get Kevin and Brad to work with us to improve and elaborate the plan and then engage town counsel to make sure it is legal
	3. Action items to prepare for October 24th 7:00 meeting with Brad andKevin:
		1. Committee made a list of possible offsets that a developer could do to achieve 2:1 replacement. A proposed criteria for inclusion on the list is that
			1. The work can be completed by the developer (not the town) prior to obtaining an occupancy permit and
			2. The results can be measured in gallons of water per day (not just $)
		2. Read and present summary of Netblue program web site (John)
		3. Talk to Weymouth about their offset program (Shirley)
		4. Talk to Hingham about their offset program (Becky)
4. There was no recent correspondence.
5. Open Discussion – nothing to report
6. Becky moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 PM. John seconded.