

# **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

### Topic

#### **Call to order and assign tonight's note taker**

This month's note taker – Becky

Attendees:

Becky Malamut

John Boehmke

Shirley Young

Ben Bornstein

Kevin Cafferty

Joanne Wykoff

Samantha Woods

Sara Grady

Michelle Craddock

George Humphrey

John Penny

Jacqueline Bohn

#### **Water system update**

Kevin's updates:

- WTP offline and work began today. First step is to empty the sand filter then clean out sedimentation basin then figure out what needs to happen structurally
- Interviewed 3 candidates for the Asst Supervisor position
- 2 brown water calls in Dec, a few in Jan around water main break
- 1 pressure valve was installed in Humarock. Won't notice a difference until they install the second one, which will be part of the next water project that goes out to bid

Becky's update:

- Reservoir project meeting recap. Big takeaway was importance of conservation. Good public forum
- Reviewed notes from the Water Dept Update at last week's BOS meeting
- WWTP will be closed until mid-April or early May. We will be on a full ban until then, and then go back to regular ban on May 1. WRC to prep educational piece to go out midApril

#### **NSRWA Presentation – Annual Review & new streamflow tool**

Michelle Craddock presented slides showing historical and 2018 streamflow releases and targets. Data showed that we did not meet targets May-Oct 2018, which is not surprising due to infrastructure issues at the WTP this year.

Discussion around summer water use and suggestion that the Master Plan and Water System Study should really look at how many people visit our town in the summer and how they use the water. For example, do they stay for the weekend, take the train and just use the beach, or pull up their boats and eat on Front St.

- Water use almost doubles during the summer but it's doubtful that twice as many people are actually staying in town. When NSRWA reviewed our water use, they did not find many homes that had low- or no-water usage in the winter that then used tons of water in the summer.
- Once we figure this out, we can almost set aside water for that purpose and we can more accurately target outreach and education.

Sara Grady presented new spreadsheet-based tool meant to open line of communication with the operators on a more regular basis

Ben asked what we else we can do to maintain streamflows. Sam responded that the more water you can put back into the system, the better. For example,

- Reduce impervious cover, keep it below 10% for the watershed. If drop below that, require more stringent recharge.
- Incentivize permeable surfaces
- Update SW bylaws to reflect updated calculations that account for changing rain events. More intense rain events mean you need to capture that water differently
- 2.5 mgpd go out into North River from WWTP. It's clean but has high concentration of copper. How can we recycle and reuse that?
- Gillette Stadium uses greywater to flush toilets, why can't our new buildings do that?

#### **Single meter policy recommendation**

No quorum, tabled until next meeting

#### **Greenbush Zoning review and comments**

Ben commented that the one thing people need to understand is that this bylaw is not allowing any additional development. What this does is giving Planning Board and Town to determine what the look and feel of this neighborhood will be

Becky provided comments on need for more stringent language in some areas and need to review against WRPD restrictions. No comments from other attendees.

#### **Open Discussion**

Committee liaisons – Tabled until next meeting

Water conservation event planning – Tabled until next meeting

Recent correspondence – Track & Athletic Fields Restoration plans

Next meeting Tuesday, Feb 29 at 7:30pm

#### **Approve minutes – November and December**

No quorum, tabled until next meeting

#### **Adjourn**