

Wellfleet Water Commissioners
Virtual Zoom meeting, 4:00pm
Tuesday April 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Hood, Chair; Curt Felix, Catharie Nass, Tom Flynn, Neil Gadwa

Others Present: Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary; Russ Tierney, Whitewater Representative; Helen Miranda Wilson, Selectboard member; Gail Ferguson, Community member; Christine Shreves, Wellfleet Recycling committee

Chair Hood called the meeting to order at 4:05pm

Helen Miranda Wilson

- Helen presented to the board her concern for conserving water maybe by using other sources of water to fill swimming pools and lawn irrigation. She expressed to the board the issues she has with people drinking potable water and using all the water that is available. If there was to be a drought, the water commissioners could put a drought emergency for the town per the regulations. She talked about a conservation plan that the board could have so the town never runs out of water. She asked the board to look at the document that she sent and the section that is in the water commissioners' rules and regulations, she pointed out the last sentence in the document. "The BWC may also choose to develop a drought management or contingency plan and institute a conservation program for public and private use." Chair Hood stated that the board did talk about the conservation of water but agreed that there wasn't a plan in writing to cover that.
- Felix asked Wilson what would be involved in a conservation plan beyond the state building codes. There is a lot of water conservation built into the codes. Wilson discussed having specific language not to just encourage people to save water but to mandate it. She gave an example, if a property owner has a swimming pool for them to fill the pool the owner would need to get the water from their own private well rather than the public water system.
- They continued to discuss water irrigation and conserving the water. Using water for uses that aren't essential. Felix stated that if someone didn't have a well and installed one why would they need the town water system. Wilson asked the board to consider this and would help draft some language to put this into the rules and regulations for the water commissioners.
- The board thanked Wilson for her input and offering to help with the language going forward. They will continue to discuss this

Wellfleet Recycling Committee

- Shreves presented to the board; the recycling committee is putting an article on the town meeting warrant banning the use of single plastic water bottles. The committee is asking the water commissioners for their support both physically and financially. She explained that the goal is to end plastic water bottle use and encourage reusable water bottles and tap water. She also explained that this is a cape wide endeavor. Chair Hood asked about the upcoming summer season how would this affect businesses, she explained there is boxed and canned water.
- They continued to discuss the logistics of having this be passed at town meeting. The board expressed some concerns and explained that the town meeting is being pushed back and some articles may be pushed until the following year.
- Shreves explained to the board that this is something the outer cape is in support of because of marine wildlife, Felix expressed that this would be difficult trying to get people to change their behaviors. Shreves stated that bottled water isn't as safe as tap water given the statistics. Water refill stations were also discussed. Nass expressed that there are certain parts of the town that don't have water stations which brings up the need for water bottles. Chair Hood talked about summer rental properties and putting into place some sort of clause that if the property is being rented then the rental property owners need their water tested so the renters don't need to buy water bottles for their vacation stay.
- The board decided to defer a vote for this until a future meeting and will continue to discuss this issue. Chair Hood stated he would bring this to the Town Administrator and discuss the board's budget to see if this would be something they could help financially support. They all thanks Shreves for presenting this to them and will reach out to her in the future to further discuss.
- This would go in affect for the summer or 2021

Update on the specifications for the Wellfleet Historical Society Fire Suppression System

- Tierney stated he spoke with Robert Our and that they can do a live tap for this property so Main Street shouldn't have to be shut down.
- Chair Hood informed the board that he spoke with the Historical society and the cost to put the fire suppression in would be around twenty-two thousand dollars. The society will be paying for this installation. Chair Hood went onto the fee that would normally be charged and stated that the board would need to discuss this at a later meeting.
- Chair Hood informed everyone that the historical building will only be using town water for the suppression system and not connecting the whole building to town water.

Update on particulate observed in the water sample from Well # 1 at Coles Neck

- Tierney discussed with the board that this well is off-line and will keep it offline due to the fact of the rust in the line. Tierney stated it was more than likely rust and that because the wells at Coles Neck don't get used often there is no water to flush the rust through the pipes.

- They discussed all three wells; Tierney stated the town could live with two wells and not three, he stated that the town should continue to leave that well offline for now and in the future if needed replace it.
- The board continued to discuss the wells with Tierney and having one of the wells as an emergency well and keeping it off -line.

Discussion of funding for the approved repairs to the SCADA and new meters system.

- Tierney discussed the quotes that he received from Thyse sales, for the entire meter system would be \$140,000. He also explained to the board that Whitewater could pay for the system outright and then have the town of Wellfleet pay a monthly payment to pay off the loan. He also stated they could do this in phases over a five-year or ten-year period of time. Chair Hood asked if this was drawn out over a period how would the billing aspect of it look, Tierney said it would be difficult to do it this way but is possible. He again stated that he wasn't comfortable going forward with Mueller. Chair Hood stated he would have to sit down with town administration to figure out where and how this would fit into the water commissioners' budget.
- Chair Hood also suggested that he and another member of the board be on a phone call with the town administrator and Tierney to discuss new meters and the best way to go about obtaining them. Tierney cautioned that this time to not go with the lowest bid so that they get a better quality.
- Tierney asked the board to hold off on a vote for the Scada update. He would like to investigate this a little more and then come back to the board with his findings.

Minutes

- February 18, 2020 – postponed to the next meeting on April 28th
- March 31, 2020 – zoom meeting minutes – postponed to the April 28th meeting

Topics for future concern

- The board will discuss the Scada System again
- The board will also discuss the new meters to be purchased

****Public Documents for this meeting:***

Wellfleet Water System Rules and Regulations – sent by Helen Miranda Wilson

Outdoor wastewater Options a state document – sent by Helen Miranda Wilson

Norfolk Outdoor Water Restrictions – sent in by Russel Tierney, whitewater

Wellfleet Recycling Committee agenda – sent in by the recycling committee