

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 15, 2021

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Department
345 Main Street, Norwell

Attendance: Commissioners: Fred St. Ours, Steve Ivas, Peter Dillon, and
Superintendent: Jack McInnis

Minutes Prepared by: Donna Snow

1. All parties were present via Zoom conference.
2. Fred St Ours voted to approve the meeting minutes from 4/1/21; Steve Ivas seconded, all in favor at 4:40pm
3. Discuss senior discounts: The Board noted we may need to change the rules & regulations as well as update the verbiage with Bill Trust. Fred St. Ours is not aware that it is in our Rules and Regulations, at minimum we need to change it on Bill Trust side to reflect discounts for "owner occupied residential accounts and 60 years of age or older". The Board noted we can change it for next fiscal year FY22. Steve Ivas motioned to change Bill Trust language, Fred St. Ours seconded all in favor 4:49pm. Donna will work with Bill Trust to update the language.
4. Drought conditions: the Southeast region is listed in a drought per Mass DEP. Based on this designation there are water limitations and Norwell moved to Tier 4 restrictions as a result. Jack McInnis reiterated automated irrigation and unattended devices are not allowed; however, hand held watering pots during certain hours are allowed. Both the DEP map and restrictions were posted to Water Department Facebook page. Fred St. Ours said we have some differences, the state is more restrictive than our Tier 4 – Fred St. Ours suggests not trying to complicate matters and just enforce Tier 4 and Peter Dillon was in agreement. Steve Ivas noticed the drought alert is different than the DEP map. Jack McInnis explained planting of a new lawn under our restrictions is allowed and Peter Dillon also noted new laws need to be re-established after Title V repairs from septic work as an example. The first offense to the restrictions is a warning, then the Department can issue a \$50 and \$100 fine for second and any subsequent violations. WATD radio conducted an interview with Jack McInnis about the restrictions. Scituate has also implemented water restrictions. Norwell is in a deficit of about four feet groundwater and Jack McInnis estimates restrictions will be in place most of the summer. Both Wells 7 & 8 may need to come offline and Well 1 may be off at some point. Normally 400 g/min is produced from Well 1, but if it comes offline that capacity is lost. Fred St. Ours pointed out some residents may come forward wanting some leniency for watering and questioned how best to address these circumstances rather than giving people an unequivocal no. The Board suggested the office can decide but Jack McInnis prefers the decision to be made through him directly. Steve Ivas briefly explained Microclover lawn seed as an alternative to grass which is drought resistant and returns nitrogen to the soil.

5. PFAS Discussion: Both Jack McInnis and Peter Dillon think they will have to notify residents of the PFAS situation. Braintree was able to reduce the PFAS in their supply from what was originally under 20 ppt (parts per trillion) to 0 ppt now. At some point this information needs to be shared, maybe after the next sampling it can be discussed. Peter Dillon notes our data has been published by DEP so a newspaper may pick it up at any time. Rockland is 20.85 ppt which is right at the standard. Jack McInnis noted the Easton Consumer Confidence report from last year listed all the PFAS numbers. The sampling schedule needed for South Street and Washington Street is now monthly and Grove Street will be quarterly. In May the plan is to take 3 samples and Jack McInnis advised he has a handle on the sampling kits. Marc Spinella will get the kits from Analytical Balance to carry us through to the 2nd quarter sampling. Fred St. Ours asked how much a sample costs, Peter Dillon said a couple hundred dollars. DEP put NWD on notice per a specific schedule, and noted "its' accuracy is not guaranteed". Peter Dillon pointed out they could have seasonal fluctuation in the wells which will impacts the mix composition and could drive the testing up over the limit. Peter Dillon does not think Well #2 and #10 are a problem and #5 is not a real concern. The priority is both Washington Street and South Street. The Advisory Board did approve the money for this effort to develop a solution and design criteria. Fred St. Ours suggests getting a sample and sending it to two labs. Washington Street issues seem to be impacted by fire extinguishers. The state set the standard and now towns have to figure out what to do about it. Peter Dillon may need to assist Marc Spinella in the first round to show him the required protocols.
6. The Route 3 Water Main crossing was discussed. Jack McInnis talked with Jason Federico and the state is still at 25% review. Jason Federico feels it will go quick after that 25% review is complete.
7. Rain Gauge update: Steve Ivas signed off for the purchase. Jason Federico said the best location is the South Street treatment location so it does not get vandalized. It will collect and transmit data through a cellular modem with four locations. The cost is just over \$5k and \$2,700 for web hosting in his proposal. Fred St. Ours asked if this information is available all over the place, the Board said no and they want a location close to the brook. Peter Dillon wants something inside the watershed, Jack McInnis agreed the rainfall can sometimes occur in one part of town and not in the other. Peter Dillon thinks this will be valuable for this summer. Jack McInnis also advised the rain gauge on weather station is working on the Town page.
8. TFM position update: Jack McInnis has reached out to Barbara Childs for an update with this and seasonal help as well. He has not heard back since he reached out.
9. CCR update is due soon, Jack McInnis is working on compiling the data for the year. He plans to eliminate some language about system improvements, enlarge font and make it more readable and allow room for PFAS data as well.
10. Fred St. Ours asked Jack McInnis about a new service at 36 Stetson Shrine Lane. The first two contractors listed are no longer doing business and the office needs to update the contractors list. Donna Snow will review and update the list with Steve Gatanti. For the service at Stetson Shrine Jay Gallagher will help with this installation; and his son John will likely do the work.
11. Steve Ivas motioned to adjourn; Fred St. Ours seconded; all in favor at 5:46pm.

Accepted: Stetson Date: 07 MAY 21