

MEETING MINUTES

REHOBOTH WATER COMMISSION

***CALL TO ORDER***

A meeting of the Rehoboth Water Commission was held at Dunkin Donuts, 217 Winthrop Street on Thursday, January 11, 2018 and commenced at 7:48 p.m.

***ATTENDEES***

Members: Joseph Nunes, Edward Ballard, Thomas Nicholson, Patricia Vadnais and Kathleen Conti

Guests: Dr. John Hermance, Professor, Brown University and Katie Eyer

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

Motion: Thomas Nicholson to approve minutes of November 7, 2017

Motion 2nd: Joseph Nunes

***ANAWAN PROJECT***

Jack Hermance wanted to know if the Commission addressed resident’s questions.

Friday, January 12th there will be a meeting with DEP. Attendees will be Karl Drowne, Bill Costa, Ted Ballard and Jack Hermance. Discussions will include difference between public and private wells, water usage and acreage.

Joseph Nunes suggested to table discussion until DEP meeting.

Ted Ballard suggests calling Skip Vadnais to let him know what takes place and go to Board of Selectmen and state what was learned at DEP Meeting.

Question about density issue on small parcel. What are DEP rules associated with that?

Ted Ballard discussed Well Mapping Project and working with IT Committee to start using data from last semester so we can run pilot projects. Ted wants Bill Costa at the next IT meeting. Ted wants to get project underway and to ask the Board of Selectmen for $1,250 to get project started.

We have an open invitation to expand project. We would have to resubmit next fall. Barkley would be willing to go to Board of Selectmen with us.

Board of Selectmen gave Jack Hermance blessing to go ahead to start a committee, Water Well Geo Mapping Committee.

Jack’s Committee is interested in well situation. A database of well data was found dating back to 1972. Katie Eyer is putting together trail map for Dyer property at no cost, only collaboration from the Town.

Katie met with Rachel Smith and Karl Drowne. She has a spreadsheet but it has too many gaps. Pilot program correlate when well was drilled and street address.

Ted Ballard – Board of Health computer download of 2,000+ wells as of June 2015. Any new well forms should have GPS on it. There is a mixed bag of information – need to merge data.

Tom Nicholson asked what the ultimate goal of Jack Hermance’s Project.

Jack – Map of topography, composition of soil, levels, etc. Map to show every well on database.

Ted Ballard – Once we get data from project, then we will address. Result will be complete database.

Roger Williams data plotted well output and location. Put out a report – compared placements of geological systems.

Tish Vadnais – Regarding Jack’s database, does it have well that don’t exist anymore? No, no knowledge of soil wells, i.e. from the 1800’s.

Katie Eyer – Next step is to fill in blanks from Board of Health files. Hoping to go through records and attach a street number.

Tom Nicholson – Question – Are you going out to GPS wells. We have GPS coordinates on house. Joe – tolerance level – we are really looking for density levels.

Motion: Tish Vadnais mad a motion to nominate Katie Eyer Co-Chair of Jack’s Committee

Motion 2nd: Tom Nicholson

Motion: Joseph Nunes made a motion to present our suggestion to the Board of

Selectmen at their next meeting

Motion 2nd: Tom Nicholson

Joseph Nunes asked Katie what kind of timeline and where are you getting instruments to proceed. Katie said that computer only thing right now on her own laptop. What is timeline? GPS coordinates can come in from Fire Department. Board of Selectmen gave them until June and the Board of Selectmen will re-discuss.

Tom Nicholson’s concern – maps. Jack Hermance – Is project worth doing? This project won’t tell us if we’re running out of water.

Tom Nicholson is all for project and wanted to make clear he did not intend to imply he wasn’t to Jack.

Ted Ballard – Well database information will be starting point.

This project is not to see if town is running out of water, that is not what it is designed to do.

Jack Hermance – Ted finishing with SRPEDD Groundwater Protection Map. Jack’s well project will put together Groundwater model.

Kathleen Conti asked Jack Hermance to send a mission statement so I have accurate information in the minutes.

Tish Vadnais suggested utilizing Boy Scouts for any legwork.

Tom Nicholson has to recuse himself from COA project because the developer is one of his clients.

Ted Ballard – Issue setting up well fracture information sheet. We have problem with fracturing in Town. Tom was to do letter. Karl Drowne comes to meeting and willing to do what needs to be done. It was decided to invite Karl Drowne to a Water Commission meeting.

Ted Ballard will invite Karl to attend a meeting planned for Tuesday, January 16th (even though Tom Nicholson is not available to attend). That way we’ll get input from DEP meeting from both Ted and Karl. We will talk about generalities of information we want from well driller.

***ADJOURNMENT***

Motion: Ted Ballard to Adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Motion 2nd: Thomas Nicholson

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen J. Conti

Rehoboth Water Commissioner

Secretary