



MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019 REHOBOTH WATER COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Rehoboth Water Commission was held at COA, 55 Bay State Rd., on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Members: Joseph Nunes, Edwin Ballard, Patricia Vadnais, and Katie Eyer

MINUTES

Motion: Tish Vadnais made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2019
Motion 2nd: Joe Nunes

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2019 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Ted Ballard – has spent time with Bill Costa and has the dialogue done for updating the bylaws. The materials from three years ago were never checked. The Groundwater Protection Area is going to be on the agenda for the town meeting. Bill Costa is trying to match the bylaws with the current situation. Mike O’Hern (ZBA) and Bill Costa are prepared to go to the Planning Board to recommend proceeding in parallel. The biggest problem is that it is not a simple rearrangement.

Highlight: Tom Nicholson has the hydrofracking document ready for the Board of Health.

Highlight: The Water Commission has been engaging with the Board of Health on a number of different matters.

Ted Ballard – The driller drills the well, a water sample is taken, and the pump test results and water quality results must be submitted in order to get a building permit. We don’t know where half of the wells are. When an old house is sold, there could be a quick pump test.

Ted Ballard – We need to develop an education system for the public, starting with all of the boards. We need to think to the future. It will be hard to put into simple terms. Ted proposes to use water resources map as a teaching tool. The map needs to be upgraded. It will be an informational map not a bylaw map. It will have a wetland overlay. It will be a Groundwater Resources Map. Ted recommends no cross-hatching for the groundwater protection district. It is the whole town. Educate every board and committee and provide meetings to help the public understand.

Highlight: Roger Williams University mapping data – there is a new conservation agent who knows GIS. We have data that we are processing from RWU.

Ted Ballard – suggests that we sit down and bring people up to speed with where we are on all projects and what we have learned.

Highlight: The Water Commission meets on a regular basis and work as a cohesive unit to discuss water issues in town.

SAVE THE BAY MEETING

Ted Ballard - The Anawan Club has been given a 1-year notice to cancel the lease by the Bristol Co. Water Authority. Save The Bay is trying to repopulate fish. They want to drain Shad Factory Pond. Invasive plants are taking over. Water Commission will be included in all Save The Bay correspondence. Did they discuss the impact of releasing the water behind the dam? Bill Dalpe is going to get a copy of the charge. It is a federal project.

Tish Vadnais – The Shad Factory Pond isn't going to be drained. The dam is going to be repaired, and the pond will be dredged to clear it of the invasive growth.

SIGN CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS

CHLORINATED SOLVENT SPILL AT 4 BROOK ST.

There was an apparent storage and/or containment problem that resulted in chlorinated solvents being released at 4 Brook St.

Ted Ballard - That location is right on the border of the state-delineated Zone II border. What is being done about groundwater contamination, and do we need to notify Swansea?

ACTION ITEMS

Ted Ballard will call Karl Drown and find out if he knows what is being done.

Joe Nunes will call the company who is doing the current air testing.

MAPPING SUBCOMMITTEE

Motion: Ted Ballard moves to appoint Katie Eyer to the mapping subcommittee.

Motion 2nd: Tish Vadnais

OTHER BUSINESS

Tish Vadnais – Are there defined protocols/guidelines for well drillers when it comes to the source of water used during the drilling process? e.g., if it is taken from the river, is there a screen to protect fish?

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion made by Tish Vadnais to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

Motion 2nd: Katie Eyer

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Eyer
Rehoboth Water Commissioner
Clerk