



## MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2019 REHOBOTH WATER COMMISSION

---

### *CALL TO ORDER*

A meeting of the Rehoboth Water Commission was held at Dunkin Donuts, 227 Winthrop St. Rehoboth and was called to order at 7:25pm.

### *ATTENDEES*

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

### *GUEST*

John Hermance

### *MINUTES*

Motion: Tish Vadnais made a motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2019 with discussed changes.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph Nunes

### *SHAD FACTORY POND*

Ted Ballard – Discussion about removing the dam on Shad Factory Pond. Bylaws give the Water District control. The bylaw clearly states that the town clerk and treasurer are also the Water Commission clerk and treasurer. The Water District has responsibility for buying and selling water to protect the water table. Bristol County Water Authority is talking about giving up the land surrounding the Shad Factory Dam. The town doesn't want the responsibility. Ted believes that there will be consequences with wells downstream if the dam is removed. It needs to be researched. Also, the issue is bigger than just removing the dam. The Water Commission needs to have a position.

Tish Vadnais – The Selectmen wanted to have an off-the-record meeting with the Water Commission about the dam, but the meeting never took place. Bristol Co. Water Authority has no intention of letting the lease go. One option for the Shad Factory Pond is to remove the dam in the future. The first step is to remove invasive plant species and reintroduce native fish.

Joe Nunes – spoke to Daniel Roach about conditions affecting the water quality at Shad Factory Pond. The pH is high, and there is contamination, whose source needs to be discovered. It affects the herring run. There needs to be a study to find the source and alleviate the problem. Taking the dam down should be a last ditch effort.

Ted Ballard – requested the report and proposal for the Water Commission. 6 weeks later, Bill Dalpe updated the Conservation Commission. A representative from Fisheries was there as well. A Bristol Co. Water Authority representative, Bill Dalpe, and someone from Fisheries met at the dam. The discussion involved donating 5.9 acres to the town with rights to the dam. The plan is to remove the dam to solve oxygen deficiencies for the fish run. The wetlands would be controlled by the Conservation Commission. Ted said that discussions must take place first.

Motion: Tish Vadnais made a motion to request ConComm minutes from the 6/04 and 6/18 meetings, during which the discussions took place.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Katie Eyer

Bill Dalpe was appointed by the Selectmen to be in charge of fisheries.

The Water Commission needs to read the minutes to look for specific discussion about dam removal. Discuss minutes at next meeting.

Ted Ballard – The Anawan Club and BCWA have a contract. The BWCA must give 1-year notice to terminate, which they have not done. They won't give notice until they are getting water from Pawtucket. Ted suggests sending a letter to the Selectmen requesting a meeting with the town attorney. The Water District has responsibility for any water that leaves town.

Jack Hermance – put together a list of questions and agenda for meeting with the town attorney.

Jack Hermance – feels it is useful for the Water Commission to have a list of instances where hydrofracking affects neighboring wells.

Jack Hermance – introduces a preamble to the groundwater protection district bylaw, which he will distribute electronically.

Tish Vadnais – will read the preamble into the Planning Board minutes on July 3, 2019.

Joe Nunes – Has anyone walked the area around the Shad Factory Dam? Ted Ballard did 5 years ago. The dam is 13' high and fish run 4.5" lower.

Tish Vadnais – The pond looks like a field. Why not drag and clean it? Norton did something similar.

Motion: Tish Vadnais made a motion to have Bill Dalpe speak to the Water Commission

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph Nunes

Ted Ballard – EPA water testing – Tish Vadnais represents the Water Commission, and Karl Drown is the primary town representative. Water Commission needs to be in the loop. Tish Vadnais will bring this to the Selectmen again, as we should be receiving any water-related information. Ted Ballard says that there needs to be a clear understanding of the water district authority with the town counsel.

### ***ACTION ITEMS***

Katie Eyer will contact Daniel Roach and Stacy Vilao about the Conservation Commission minutes and about the water source for the new development on Park St.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

Motion: Motion made by Tish Vadnais to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ted Ballard

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Eyer  
Rehoboth Water Commissioner  
Clerk