**Town of Shutesbury**

**Water Resources Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting of November 8, 2017**

Attendees: Tim Cook (Chair), Al Werner, Paul Lyons (recorder), Nancy McGarigal, Mark Rivers, Mike Ross

Meeting convened at 7:16 pm and concluded at 9:02 pm.

1. **Minutes of May 10 meeting were approved with edits.**
2. **Member Updates**

* Al informed members that he will be monitoring conductivity in Roaring Brook and the Sawmill River (along with snowbank status and salt concentrations) with Mt. Holyoke College students this winter.
* No FY-17 end-of-year purchases were made by the WRC.
* Paul noted that he made the updates to the WRC website that were discussed at the last meeting. Tim suggested that we delete any remaining reference to “current” drought conditions, and add a link to the USGS drought monitoring website (i.e., droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

1. **Future Directions of WRC**

Discussion began with the question “Should the WRC continue to exist?” Various thoughts and options were proposed, including:

* There still seems to be a need for a group focused on water quality in town.
* Perhaps the WRC should be an ad hoc advisory or management committee, meeting and dealing with issues or special projects as the need arises.
* Maybe we should advocate for “pre-emptive” studies (to be conducted by others) – e.g., assessments of stream vulnerability to erosion.
* There are some obvious water quality issues in town (such as salt contamination) that still need to be monitored and/or addressed. Perhaps the WRC role should be to initially identify and assess such issues, but then report to the Selectboard about if/how further evaluation of the issue should happen.
* There’s valuable knowledge and expertise on the WRC.
* There was general agreement that the WRC should continue to exist, although maybe with less frequent meetings.
* There was also general agreement that it might be a good time to have a discussion with the Selectboard about the future of the WRC. Paul suggested that we spend time at our next meeting to organize our thoughts on a “proposal” to the SB regarding a restructuring of the WRC charge and purpose.

1. **New Chair**

After a long period of silence and deflections, Al Werner finally gave in and agreed to become the next Chairperson of the WRC. Thanks Al!

**Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2017.** Topics will include website, proposal to SB and membership.