

Water Resource Committee

Minutes

April 27, 2011

Members Present:

Hugh Harwell, chair

William Elliot

April Stein, secretary

Also present, Becky Torres, Town Administrator

Called to order 7:15pm

1. Minutes from 4/13 and 3/23/11
 - Hugh is the only member present who also attended the meeting on 4/13, so a vote to accept the minutes could not be taken tonight.
 - Bill and Hugh were both at the 3/23 meeting and voted to accept the minutes as written.
2. Posting minutes on Town Web site
 - It was voted unanimously that April would take the responsibility of posting approved minutes on the Web site. A member of the Web Committee will train her to do this.
3. Possible Questions to be addressed by the Water Resource Committee (WRC).
 - Bill has submitted to the committee an outline of questions he sees as relevant to the committee.
 - What do other boards want from the WRC?
 - Paul, at previous meeting, has shared what the **Conservation Commission** is interested in.
 - **Board of Health:** According to Bill, main concern is Nitrate loading and other contaminants from septic systems, as it impact surface and bedrock water. He also noted that that acid rain sampling is done at the Lake Wyola annually.
 - **Planning Board:** Hugh spoke with Deacon ~~from Bonnar, Chair of the PB~~ [and met with full Board at their last meeting](#). Among other issues the PB is interested in well water quality, particularly as it relates to impact from road salt and other potential pollutants.
 - Becky gave a summary of the history of salt contamination in the well at town hall [and other wells in Town Center, which has required the use of ~~and~~ bottled water. She also described](#) the on-going work by the Highway department [to limit the frequency of](#)

salt applications and the use of "Magic Salt," which does not contain sodium and melts ice more rapidly. ~~that has~~ Those practices have reduced the ~~impact of salt on town water~~ amount of salt applied to Town roads to a minimum. The salt/sand stockpiles at the Highway Department garage are also well covered and contained to prevent any contaminated runoff.

- Planning Board also was interested in the eaffect of dirt road maintenance on surface water quality.
- PB questions if there are other underground storage tanks and possible pollution, similar to what has been found at the Fire Station
- Planning Board is interested in the condition of Lake Wyola given the increase of year-round residential occupancy on small lots capacity at the Lake. The Board wants to know what the capacity for such occupancy is.

4. Data Base:

- Examined full sized State Bedrock Geology maps provided at last meeting by Al Werner (4/13/11).
- Review of the USGS Surficial Geology map noted in the minutes of 4/13/11.
- Hugh described Paul's previous progress with simplifying the NRCS Soil Survey map from 99 categories down to 47. Discussed how to interpret the soil report. He hopes that it can be modified to map soils by texture classes, rather than soil type names. Bill said that the Soil Survey analytic and interpretive report will not be available from NRCS for at least another year. He wondered if the old report might still be useful. ~~data is on this map as well as the slope data.~~ Hugh stated his preference to create a separate Slope map using 5% increment categories, rather than the NRCS slope categories.
- Well driller logs may provide additional soils and bedrock information only on very specific sites. Perc tests can also be used to indicate soil types, but is also only useful for very specific sites.
- Obtaining the use of an ARC-viewVIEW program to consolidate data also discussed. Need to get the data into GIS form in one database with multiple layers. Bill said that the Assessor has the Town's only copy of ARCVIEW, which he has been able to use. He was not sure which version it is, but it is not likely to be current.
- Committee needs an analytical protocol to calculate ground water recharge. Title V protocols for siting septic systems is ~~relevant~~ do not provide for natural variations in recharge. Possibly this data could be added to the Committee's database.

—Can it be determined where fractures in bedrock are affecting groundwater recharge? Measuring stream flow is relevant to the data needed [also](#).

—Members should review the Leverett Study particularly the methodology for creating water recharge maps/studies.

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Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm.

Next Meeting 5/11/11 at 7 pm, Shutesbury Town Hall.