



## MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2018 REHOBOTH WATER COMMISSION

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### *CALL TO ORDER*

A meeting of the Rehoboth Water Commission was held at COA, 55 Bay State Rd., on Monday, November 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

### *ATTENDEES*

Members: Joseph Nunes, Edwin Ballard, Patricia Vadnais, Thomas Nicholson, Kathleen Conti and Katie Eyer

### *CONTACT INFORMATION*

Joseph Nunes requested contact information from each member of the commission, including email address, phone number, and street address.

### *VOTE TO FILL K. CONTI VACANCY*

Review qualifications of Katie Eyer and give the committee members an opportunity to question her. Tish Vadnais asked her opinion of town water (against) and how long she has lived in Rehoboth (just over a year). There was a brief discussion about the town water supply and the need to protect it. There was a unanimous vote to recommend Katie Eyer to the Board of Selectmen for appointment to the Water Commission. The appointment will be until the election in April, at which time a candidate will be elected to serve the remaining one year of Kathy Conti's seat.

Ted Ballard – point of order – In the past, the Republican caucus has chosen a qualified unenrolled candidate if no Republican candidate has come forward.

### *PENDING PROJECTS*

Joseph Nunes – The Water Commission is going in a number of different directions, and tasks are not being completed. For example, the mapping project with Roger Williams University: What does the committee want to accomplish?

Ted Ballard – status reports – There are three issues that need to be brought before the Board of Health:

1. Hydrofracking
2. The Groundwater Protection District
3. The EPA project

He also wants to discuss a policy on communication.

Joseph Nunes would like input. What does the committee want to do?

Ted Ballard said that Jack Hermance has put together a list and a questionnaire for drillers based on the list. There are data for two hydrofracking cases, one where wells 1000' away were affected, and another on Tremont St. where the basement of the house across the street was filled after fracking. Ted went to the Board of Health two years ago with recommendations, but nothing has happened. The Water Commission is going to give the Board of Health a questionnaire to give to drillers in order to understand the impact of fracking.

Tom Nicholson addressed the recommendations for the Board of Health in terms of establishing a hydrofracking protocol for Rehoboth.

Action Item: Tom Nicholson will put together a questionnaire and will pass it around to the committee.

Ted Ballard said that when old houses with no well information are purchased, a driller comes in and does a quick well test. Working on a protocol.

Kathy Conti – Town Clerk Laura Schwall suggests that the Water Commission formally accept her resignation.

Motion: Tish Vadnais moves that the Water Commission accept the resignation of Kathleen Conti.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Nicholson

The motion was approved unanimously.

Tish Vadnais – As far as pending issues go, the watershed map needs to be finalized. It would be good to be able to go to the Town meeting and say that it is finalized.

Ted Ballard – There will be no map.

Tish Vadnais – As far as Board of Health forms go, she believes that the forms need to be filled out completely and correctly or no permit should be issued. Currently, the Board of Health issues a building permit upon receipt of well completion and water quality reports.

(The meeting moves to the Board of Selectmen meeting.)

### ***VOTE TO MAKE KATIE EYER WATER COMMISSION SECRETARY***

Motion: Tish Vadnais made the motion to make Katie Eyer Water Commission Secretary.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

### ***GROUNDWATER PROTECTION MAP***

Tish Vadnais asked Ted Ballard to name the members of the mapping subcommittee. The members are Ted Ballard, Jack Hermance, Ed Bertozzi, and Bill Costa.

Ted Ballard – The map on the wall of the Town Office building dates back to 1990 and is a water resources map. It was updated in 2000. In 2014, the mapping subcommittee recommended to the Water Commission to go to the ZBA to propose changes to the map on the wall: modifications to include topography and watershed on the map. When the map came out, Jack Hermance saw mistakes. In August of 2017, a new map was posted, but it is not an official map. The only official map is the 1990 map, which uses 1978 data for reference. The 2000 SRPDD map was never approved.

Tish Vadnais said that under the current proposal, all of Rehoboth will be a groundwater protection district. This prompted discussion about the Palmer River watershed boundaries that are in adjacent towns.

Ted Ballard stated that there will be no map. All of Town is the protection district. 85% of Rehoboth is watershed, and the remaining 15% is high ground outside of the watershed, but it should all be in the same classification.

Ted Ballard said that Jack Hermance was given time by the planning board for meeting with Bill Napolitano of SRPDD to discuss map terminology. It is not acceptable to use the term Zone III with regard to the protection district because the Zone III designation only applies to Zone II areas established by the state.

Ted Ballard says that it may be possible that this is resolved in time for the spring town meeting, and if not, definitely the fall town meeting.

### ***ACTION ITEMS***

Tom Nicholson will put together a hydrofracking questionnaire and will pass it around to the committee.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

Motion: Motion made by Tish Vadnais to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Eyer  
Rehoboth Water Commissioner  
Secretary