

MEETING MINUTES

REHOBOTH WATER COMMISSION

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Rehoboth Water Commission was held at the COA, 55 Bay State Road on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 and commenced at 7:07 p.m.

**Attendees:**

Members: Joseph Nunes, Edward Ballard, Thomas Nicholson, Patricia Vadnais and Kathleen Conti

Guests: Jim Muri, School Street; Alane Malone, Bay State Road; Brenda Smith, 78 Bay State Road, Jay Fancesshelli, 78 Bay State Road; Veronica Brickley, 52 Bay State Road; Skip Vadnais, Homestead Avenue; John F. Hermance, 75 Ash Street; Donald Welshman, 134 Simmons Street; Peter Martin, 66 Bay State Road; Meredith Martin, 66 Bay State Road; Sandra Moesing, 56 Bay State Road; Sean Correia, 56 Bay State Road; Janet McCauley, 3 Locust Avenue, George McCauley, 3 Locust Avenue; Lorraine Botts, 167 County Street; Steve Silva, 12 Blanding Road.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Patricia Vadnais to approve minutes of September 14, 2017

Motion 2nd: Joseph Nunes

**Announcements/Discussions**

Joseph Nunes addressed town residents to inform them that the Water Commission does not have all information but that we are here to listen to residents concerns. The Water Commission does not have any responsibility/input but want to present form of recognition. The Water Commission continues to operate as we always have. The Zoning Board talked to the Selectmen and any questions that arise should be referred to appropriate committee. Policy is clear that the Water Commission gives advice based on best opinion. Action must be by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Questions and Concerns of Town Residents**

Lorraine Botts, 167 County Street: Questions on location. Is this the only place/location they looked at. She doesn’t want this project to hurt the COA.

Steve Silva, 12 Blanding Road: Feels we don’t really have answers for these people. Joseph Nunes will read reports and forward residents concerns to the ZBA once we have hydrological study.

George McCauley, 3 Locust Avenue: Concerned about the character of the town. He loves this town as is , a farm town. Another concern is congregated area, bad things happen. Would road need to be enlarged, street lights, etc. Joe Nunes brought up social issues.

Peter Martin, 66 Bay State Road (also speaking for 62 Bay State Road. Pond at 62 Bay State Road has gone dry twice and well has dried up twice. If there is a drought there is not enough water to sustain another building next door. He is concerned about a 97 year old woman tht lives at 62 Bay State and her well being dry.

Sean Correia, 56 Bay State Road: Traffic concerns and traffic impact study. Ted Ballard told him he would have to deal with the ZBA on that.

Motion: Tish Harrington made a motion that all questions be submitted in form of written statement and submitted to the ZBA.

2nd: Joseph Nunes

David, Attleboro: ZBA deals with 40B Project. What happens if well runs dry? What happens if well runs dry? What about contingency plan if wells go dry. Ted Ballard says that it must be submitted to ZBA. Tom Nicholson, suggested developer be told to hire specialist.

Alane Malone, 77 Bay State Road: Her concerns are that they want to use her property as buffer zone. She does not want her property involved. An attorney has emailed question to Dean Harrison and has not yet received an answer.

Ted Ballard, website shows what they will be leasing. Town Meeting vote gave Selectmen permission to negotiate on leasing. No activity to date. From a liability standpoint, whoever is leasing has responsibility. ZBA has a responsibility to address. There are flexibilities in the system. Water Commission has concerns, we want to be kept up to date as soon as possible. Issue of wells – What is basis for values, DEP based on number of bedrooms 82 people on this site leasing two acres or less.

Veronica Brickley, 52 Bay State Road: Wants to know average water consumption.

Ted Ballard wants to set up communication system and publish on website. Questions have to go directly to the ZBA.

Jim Muri, 82 School Street: Question should be submitted live to ZBA. Water Commission request ZBA retain an Engineer at expense of applicant, an independent hydrologist. This is not the only Chapter 40B. Therre is one in south Rehoboth on Bliss Street.

Steve Silva, 12 Blanding Road: Anawan Project questions regarding variances.

Veronica Brickley, 52 Bay State Road – Comments and Questions:

Two wells, what proximity to each other

Contaminated wells

Wetland Impact

Septic Systems – What impact on neighbors wells

Lease Agreement

Recharge Rate Reduction

Change in abutters water quality

Maximum demand of gallons per day (4,160 gallons per day)

Joseph Nunes - Rounding to 5,200 per day 100% capacity. Depth of water table – if less than 18 inches. Water runoff – detention ponds?

??? – Asked for result of perc test. She did not get it. Concerned about her water and well and wants answers before lease agreement signed.

Ted Ballard – Engineer responsible for project wasn’t at meeting so we can’t answer some of the questions. School/Senior Center not separate lot. Question to the Board of Assessors shows as a single lot.

Town of Rehoboth should be responsible for what they decide for this building to be built. Jack Hermance says get stats on record. Joseph Nunes asked , did well have to be dug deeper by 10 feet. We have at 66 – can supply facility next door. Pond one acre with island 5-6’, spring fed. Tish Vadnais said over 20 years pond went dry twice. River runs down by library. Pond goes down all the time but comes back in the spring. Jack Hermance says ten years - increase in temperature during summer would compound situation. Well test should be done during dry period then factor another 20%.

Veronica Brickley – Engineer still hasn’t come to ZBA. Mr. Harrison changed his mind on many thing, i.e. age 55 went up to 62. Questions regarding sewage treatment plants haven’t been answered. No one seems to want to take responsibility. It was also thought that this would be for Rehoboth residents but it is not. Should there be another Town Meeting vote?

Jim Muri has concerns and urges Water Commission to request ZBA hire an engineer and answer questions asked.

Veronica asks about COA impact with 82 people projected. What about parking? This will impact the Senior Center. Dean Harrison this would overwhelm the Senior Center. How is the COA going to accommodate?

Jack Hermance – Citizens need more time to hear and get more development information.

Motion: Patricia Vadnais to table until we get more information

Motion 2nd: Thomas Nicholson

Ted Ballard brought up the Spring Street Development. He said if you drive by Spring Street a sign says open. Anyone can go in and ask questions.

Joe Nunes – Records were lost in flood and we are working with Roger Williams University so we can have data for future.

Veronica – How can development go on with sufficient information?

Joe – Concerns need to be voiced at Town Meeting

Ted – Prop Eval to ensure what developer wants to do so Planning Board can make evaluation.

Ted – Have to meet DEP requirements and BOH Regulations

Jack Hermance – DEP has guideline and recommends well testing proceed in staged fashion. Water Commission can determine if proceeding as it should be. Peer Review – DEP. Who will Peer Review DEP?

Finalization – Tom will write letter.

Ted – If you want to frac, get form from BOH.

Tish Vadnais – Forms – Advised they have form, they follow tracing. They do submit approval. Karl Drowne to attend meeting with copy of form?

**Mapping Subcommittee**

Mapping Sub Committee meeting with DEP Public Water Regulations. An agenda needs to be submitted by email. Ted addresses item to addressed – Private Water Systems. We want decisions and process for approval.

Our agenda is to develop understanding of regulations to drill Public Water Systems well since experience is private wells. We need to educate ourselves to public wells.

Jack Hermance – We need to be careful about strategy addressing DEP. All information is on web. We should have a discussion after reading web and we should be listening to the public.

Ted Ballard – DEP meeting in relation to project should be open.

Jack Hermance – Water Commission should invite DEP Representative to a Public Hearing.

Ted Ballard – DEP should be at ZBA Hearing. Joe says we can ask for a rep to come. Jack thinks there should be a one on one meeting with DEP. Ted Ballard will send an email with agenda. When can we get together wil question list. Joe says we’ll check calendar.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Thomas Nicholson to Adjourn at 9:44 p.m.

Motion 2nd: Patricia Vadnais

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen J. Conti

Rehoboth Water Commissioner

Secretary