

Duxbury Water & Sewer Advisory Board

TOWN CLERK
2023 AUG 24 PM 12:14
DUXBURY, MASS.

Meeting Minutes: July 17, 2023

Approved: August 21, 2023

Attendees:

W&SAB Members:

Tanya Trevisan
Paul Keohan
Bo Boynton

Town Staff:

Peter Buttkus, DPW Superintendent
Mark Cloud, Water Superintendent

Guests:

Fernando Guittard, Selectboard Liaison to the W&SAB

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 pm.

Voting on June 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with the W&SAB members approving the meeting minutes.

Update from DPW Superintendent

- a. A map of the water system with well locations and a delineation of the High/Low system was provided by Peter B. The Board used this map throughout the meeting.
- b. Test results on 3M tape samples - Weston & Sampson provided test results from the analysis of tape samples. The analysis identified leachable PFAS. W&S also concluded that the 3M tape disposed at the landfill is likely a contributing source of the previously measured PFAS levels at the McNeil Landfill. The Town will provide this information to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for assistance in evaluating 3rd party liability at this landfill.
- c. Status of Partridge St. Well filtration improvements - Peter B. was asked to obtain a project schedule.

- d. Staffing Update - Peter B. described his efforts to fill open positions in the Water Department. Weston & Sampson continues to fill in for unfilled Water Department positions, such as collecting water samples and operating several treatment processes.
- e. Peter B. was asked if the current contract funds for Partridge St well and the upcoming contract for the Depot and Tremont Street wells could be redirected to other wells, such as Evergreen, which produces more water and has lower PFAS levels. Peter B. deferred this issue to the Finance Director.
- f. Status of the Water Rate Model: Peter B. reported that Mary McKinnon has been hired as the new Finance Director. At an earlier meeting, Adam Yanulis offered to provide a sample request for proposals for a water rate study. Peter suggested that Adam can contact Mary directly.

Schedule meeting with Environmental Partners and develop questions for meeting

During the Open Forum, the Board developed 5 questions for the WSAB's upcoming meeting with Town Consultant Ryan Trehan, of Environmental Partners, which is scheduled for August 21, 2023. Bruce Bygate (Board of Health Liaison to the W&SAB) had submitted questions earlier which were reviewed.

Town of Duxbury Consumer Confidence Report 2022

Attendees agreed that the future reports need to be accurate and more reader friendly. Mark Cloud suggested that outside services, which specialize in these reports, could improve future reports.

Selectboard's Response to Proposed Action Plan Previously Submitted

Fernando G. reported that the Selectboard has not offered any guidance for the W&SAB.

Other Actions Taken

During the Open Forum, Board members questioned why the Partridge and Depot wells were chosen for the initial activated carbon filtration units. Both wells have been offline for several years. It was noted that when they were active, neither well yielded large water volumes. Bo B. suggested a change in how the wells are managed: the newer wells which typically have higher yields and better water quality become the primary sources of water instead of attempting to balance pumping times among the 12 wells. We agreed that the Board needs to ask how the wells will be operated in the future.

Also, installing PFAS filtration at the Partridge and Depot wells first, given their age and ability to yield water, made little sense. The W&SAB intends to present these concerns at a future Selectboard meeting.

W&SAB sent Ryan Trehan questions for Environmental Partners to address at the W&SAB's August meeting.

The August Meeting was set for Monday, August 21, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.