

WMAC Meeting Minutes, June 18, 2015

Attendees: David Crosby - Chair, Anne Carney, Lealdon Langley, Paul Lauenstein – Vice Chair, Rory McGregor – Secretary

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW; Nancy Fyler – Neponset River Watershed Assoc

1. Minutes from the May 21 meeting were approved as amended.
2. Eric Hooper presented a proposal for a town bylaw which addresses residential irrigation systems in Sharon. See the first attachment. The addition of an annual inspection provision was recommended by several committee members. Anne Carney recommended that the irrigation system be registered and inspected whenever home ownership changes hands. Nancy Fyler suggested that we investigate the program in Westwood MA where the town provides rain sensors to residents at no cost provided they conduct an inspection of their irrigation system for proper performance.

Nancy Fyler will assist Eric Hooper with further investigation of bylaws and operating procedures used by other towns. Eric's objective is to get the registration requirement for residential irrigation systems in place this year and the bylaw governing all other aspects in place next year. The second attachment is a proposal for a flyer that will promote the registration program.

Lealdon Langley suggested that concrete numbers be used in the example of how much extra water is pumped when irrigation systems are in operation. This refers to the promotional information that will be used for this program.

3. Eric reviewed Water Department activities during May. Rainfall is down 5 inches from normal weather patterns at this time of year for the Boston area. Pumping was higher this May compared to last May by more than 30%. Unaccounted water was up to 20% of total volume pumped. Nitrate levels are satisfactory.

Weston & Sampson has been commissioned to identify and prioritize projects in the Water Master Plan that will be needed over the next 20 years and update their costs. Total contract cost is \$60,000.

Eric will monitor ground water levels on a daily basis while he varies the amount of water pumped from different town wells. The objective is to see what the effect is on ground water levels. Monitoring wells in the Belcher Street area will be the control point because there are no pumping wells in that area. Therefore only natural events, like rainfall, will affect those levels.

The Water Department will work with the company known as WaterSmart. They provide educational information integrated with monthly water bills that support initiatives to encourage water conservation. We will explore how they can work with MUNIS, our current billing service provider, to integrate their services into the residential bill paying system.

4. Eric will present a proposed price increase for residential water rates at the next meeting.
5. The next meeting will be Thursday July 23 at 7:30 pm at the Community Center. There will be no meeting in August. Meeting in September will tentatively be on the 24th.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor