

WMAC Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2015

Attendees: David Crosby - Chair, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley, Rory McGregor – Secretary, Chris Pimentel

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW

1. Minutes from the November 19 meeting were approved as amended.

2. The town has records that indicate up to 300 homes that have lead pipe service lines. Eric will forward to WMAC members the Sharon map indicating those homes that fall into this category. This concern is prompted by the recent lead problem discovered in the drinking water in Flint MI.

Possible actions that we could take at this time: let home owners know that they have a lead service line; recommend that they test water on a periodic basis; advise all customers to let tap water run for a minute in the morning when first turned on.

Eric will consult with DEP about compliance issues related to reporting potential contamination in service lines to homes, required notification action to the customer, and follow up service correction action that is town responsibility.

Consistent pH measurement and corrosion control have been the traditional practice for managing this potential problem.

Can a revolving fund be set up for replacement of service lines that have lead? Eric will check with Board of Health and state level organizations on town responsibility.

3. The Draft Water Master Plan dated September 2015 prepared by Weston & Sampson (W&S) has been reformatted to align with the original Master Plan dated 2011. References to sections in the original Master Plan which have not been updated are identified. The final draft will be submitted by next meeting. Subjects that have been updated include:

a) Maintenance costs for the water tanks to include painting and ultimate replacement cost. Consider replacement, because the painting expense is significant, but delay the replacement date provided the interior of the tank continues to pass annual inspection.

b) Infrastructure costs for capital improvement projects: connection to MWRA, upgrade at Well #6 to remove manganese and iron, upgrade of our remote-read water meter system. Schedule the replacement of our drive by system for water meter reading in 5 to 7 years. Data collection may be possible on internet wireless service from commercial providers like Xfinity, which means that there will be no need to set up a network for data transmission.

c) Leak detection technology that is now being used to improve the timely identification of water system leaks.

d) Storm water management. Wetlands recharge is a possible goal for future use of reclaimed storm water and should be considered as a future discussion topic.

4. Eric will invite W&S to attend our next meeting and review the details of the Water Master Plan described above.

5. Unaccounted for water is down to 6% in January. The reduction is probably due to a summertime issue related to the Beach House Concession Stand at Lake Massapoag and/or a leak in the vicinity of Gavins Pond.
6. Certified retained earnings in the Water Dept account is around \$3.5 million.
7. Eric reported that approximately 16% of town households have signed up for Water Smart. Our goal of 20% will be considered a significant achievement. Commonwealth Connect is another program that the Water Dept is rolling out.
8. Groundwater is recovering to normal levels. Nitrates at the big wells have dropped below 4%.
9. Pleasant Street, Walnut Street, Chestnut Street are next on the list for water main replacement. Belcher Street (AC issue) and Edgehill Bypass design (MWRA connection with Norwood) are also on the list for water main replacement.
10. The next meeting will be Thursday March 17th at 7:30 pm at the Community Center. Blake Martin and/or Leah Stanton will attend from Weston & Sampson. Officer elections for WMAC will take place at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor