

WMAC Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2017

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

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent- Sharon DPW

1. Minutes from the December 21, 2017 meeting were approved.
2. Discussion from previous meeting continued on the “dirty water” problem in Town. Iron and manganese found in Sharon groundwater and wells are not considered hazardous or unhealthy, but can stain clothing, tubs etc. When these elements are oxidized, they can change the appearance of water from clear to having discolored and produce odors.
3. The committee wants to know the extent of the “dirty water” problem. Does the problem occur for most residents just during flushing of fire hydrants? Do some households have it most of the time?
4. The Water Department will send out a questionnaire on “dirty water” to everyone who is on the Water Sense list, which is approximately 40% of Sharon households. This may give the committee some idea of how extensive the problem is. The survey should run for at least 6 months from winter to summer spanning time intervals when water usage is changing. Both low and high volume consumption time periods can be assessed for occurrence of the “dirty water” problem.
5. Eric continues work on the emergency connection with Norwood. Sharon has secured land from the Spring Valley development at no cost to locate the pump house on Tiot Street.
6. There will be a public hearing for the proposed household water usage rates on February 13. The Town Administrator has indicated he would like to see a higher base rate. Eric will recommend a \$5 increase to \$32.50. Block rates at all levels will also increase.
7. Total water consumption for 2017 is 380 million gallons. Unaccounted for water is running around 2%, which is very low. Water pipe replacement project for this year will shift from South Pleasant Street to the Heights area on Suffolk Road. Multiple breaks in water pipe during the past month on Suffolk Road have necessitated this shift in focus. Cement lined ductile iron pipe is the material of choice for the water main in that area.
8. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 15, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor
WMAC Secretary