WMAC Meeting Minutes – November 16th, 2023

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair, David Brookfield, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley, Robert (Rory) McGregor – Secretary

Guests:
Ira Miller – Finance Committee

1. David Crosby opened the virtual WMAC meeting via Zoom at 7:30pm.

2. Minutes of the October 19th WMAC meeting were approved unanimously after the following edit was added to item 3: "the 100-foot setback buffer" was edited to read "the outer 100 feet of the 200-foot riverfront area"). This led to discussion and review of the proposed location for the water treatment facility relative to the three setback distances from Beaver Brook: 50 feet – no construction area; 100 feet – floodplain area; 200 feet – riverfront area. Eric Hooper, superintendent of Public Works, was absent from the WMAC meeting because he was attending the Conservation Commission public hearing on this same issue.

3. Ira Miller reviewed information in the warrant article on the water treatment plant for the upcoming town meeting on November 30th. Cost information for the Well #4 site totals $36M and is considerably less expensive than the option of becoming a regular MWRA customer. The cost of borrowing money to finance the MWRA option drives overall cost well above the expense for the water treatment plant. The town has secured an interest free loan from the State Revolving Fund to finance the water treatment plant.

4. Ira Miller and David Hearne will participate in a public Zoom panel discussion on Nov 21st sponsored by Sustainable Sharon Coalition to discuss the town's choice between building the proposed water treatment plant and the MWRA option.

5. Eric Hooper is attending the Conservation Committee meeting taking place this evening. His report on Water Department activity for October will be discussed at the December WMAC meeting.

6.. Next WMAC meeting is scheduled for December 21st 2023 at 7:30pm.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor