



HARVARD WATER - SEWER COMMISSION

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Virtual Meeting Held in accordance with Governors Executive Order Suspending
Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Cindy Russo, Chair

Kyle Hedrick

Richard Maione

Present

Cindy Russo, Chair; Rick Maione, Commissioner; Tim Bragan, Town Administrator; Tim Kilhart, DPW Director, Joan Eliyesil, Harvard Press. Mario Cardenas, Oak Hill Road

1. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Russo at 10:00 a.m.
2. There was Public Comment from Mario Cardanas. Mario pointed out that we have just had an 8 week period of drought, and he is concerned about wasteful water use and the lack of protocols for drought conditions.

The Commission proceeded to discuss the issues of drought conditions and water conservation.

Tim Kilhart spoke to the impact of the drought on the town water system. Tim said that because we have very deep wells they have not been impacted. He noted that the elementary school construction has been using a lot of water recently.

The wells have capacity to produce 72,000 gallons of water per day, and are permitted for 23,000 gallons per day.

Rick inquired about the aquifer feeding our town wells. There are 3 different aquifers supplying Harvard's town and private wells; three independent watersheds. Rick believes that our town wells are served by the Assabet watershed. Rick suggests that we identify the other wells that are impacting our watershed.

Tim K noted that some some towns limit water use based on general capacity issues, while other towns limit as a response to drought.

Asked whether the town can mandate water conservation by private well owners, Tim Bragan said he was unsure. An opinion from Town Counsel would be needed.

3. The Minutes of February 5 were approved without correction.

4. Report of the DPW Director

i. Design of the Chlorination system. Tim K and Ron just met with Tom Mahana and Roup to discuss their draft report which contained 3 options. Option 1 – chlorination only in existing vault. Option 2 – small building so could chlorinate and treatment to remove iron and manganese which will probably be needed. Option 3 – UV ultraviolet + chlorination. – cost prohibitive cause would still need chlorine.

Tim and Ron prefer Option 2 which would require additional funding for design and permitting. Engineers will do cost estimates. Ballpark construction price was 180K for full time chlorination. \$720K for chlorination + softening. Engineering to date has cost \$22,000, so 20k remains in budget. Engineer will want an additional \$35,000 to bring option to the 75% design would be sufficient for submission for DEP and permitting.

Tim Bragan pointed out that there was an appropriation for this work of \$42,000 was to include design, permitting and construction services. The work was to be done under the control of water commission. The Commission asked Tim K to provide a copy of the contract and the preliminary report.

ii. Mass rural water. We pay a \$300 annual fee. Mass Rural Water has updated the water maps to include the new water lines for elementary school (GPS (GIS?) update.). They also performed a leak test which showed no leaks.

iii. Mixing unit has been installed.

5. Report of Town Administrator

i. Tim Bragan reported that Scott Hayward has connected to the system. Tim is waiting for the final paperwork from the installer.

ii. The changes needed as a part of the school construction project have been made. There has been an odor apparently from the stack pipe at elementary school. Tim is working with operator to resolve this.

iii. Everything at the plant is working well.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 am.