



WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 22, 2015

8:00 am

Public Works Meeting Room

Meeting called by: Jason Skeels and Ellie Kurth (absent)

Type of meeting: Regularly Scheduled

Attendees: Lyons Witten (Chair), John Tobiason, Steve Dunn (note taker), Brian Yellen, Rebecca Fricke, Steve Mabee

MINUTES

1. Minutes from previous meeting approved.
2. Update on snow and ice road treatments: (Jason)
 - a. Data collecting underway.
 - b. Tentatively appears that time and fuel usage are lower, but have not yet compared taking into account storm frequency and intensity.
3. Update on the use of fluoride in Amherst water. (Jason)
 - a. Warrant article to end fluoride supplementation failed in Town Meeting. No change in current practice. No further action to be taken.
4. Update on sewer and water line extensions and replacements. (Jason)
 - a. Harkness Road—90% complete. Water 100% complete. Five or six household connections completed so far. Sewer waiting on pump station.
 - b. Pine Street—sewer and water done. Sidewalks and topcoat of asphalt will complete the project.
 - c. Amherst Woods—Phase I sewer 75% complete. Sewer stubs to property lines yet to complete. Need dewatering plan for Woodlot Rd that deals with silt accumulation. Phase II is at 90% design complete. Current plan is to put out to bid in Fall/Winter 2015.
 - d. Harris/Fisher Streets—Design is complete. Sewer repair and water main replacement needed. Not yet funded.
 - e. Northampton Road—Water main replacement, needs increased capacity. Design in progress. Will need State approval.
5. Wells, water treatment plants, and storage tanks: (Jason)
 - a. Update on Centennial WTP upgrades—Still deciding about which treatment method is preferred.

6. Watershed protection activities. (Jason)
 - a. Amherst Road timber harvest—completed. Positive feedback, no complaints.
 - b. Property acquisition projects—
 - i. Town Meeting passed two articles (Article 3 and Article 4) that provide funding through a Drinking Water Supply Grant to purchase 1.15 acre on the SW side of Atkins Reservoir and 24 acres on NW (Shutesbury-side) of Atkins Reservoir. The Town will be closing on the properties June 30th, 2015.
 - ii. West Quabbin Connections Landscape Partnership Grant was denied. This was a joint grant proposal by the Town of Amherst, the Town of Pelham, Kestrel Trust, and the Dept. of Fish & Game. The total acreage in the grant application was 1,207 acres and included properties in Pelham, Shutesbury, and Leverett. Amherst watershed portions were 293 acres to be purchased in fee and 204 acres to be purchased via conservation restrictions for a total of almost 500 acres.
 - c. Snowmobile usage in watersheds—We asked the Snowmobile club to seek an alternate route that would impact less Town watershed land. No response yet.
7. NEXT MEETING APRIL 9th (Thursday)
8. Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before the meeting—Steve Mabee and Lyons Witten have terms expiring this year. Both agree to serve another term. Jesse Schwalbaum has stepped off the committee, so we have an opening.
9. Adjourned 8:45