

Water Resource Committee

Minutes

March 9, 2011

Members Present: Hugh Harwell-chair, William Elliott, Paul Lyons, and April Stein-secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:20 pm

1. Reviewed minutes from March 9, 2011. Two changes were approved by the committee:
April will obtain the minutes from Becky Torres and make the corrections.
2. Discussed the town website and having WRC posted on the site. April will forward approve meeting minutes to the Web Committee for posting.
Hugh will talk with Fred Steinberg from the Web Committee to clarify how the committee wants to work with the point person from the WRC.
3. Bill and Hugh summarized the UMass TEI lecture by Kathy Baskin. Discussed was use of the Basin Safe Yield Calculation, which uses the # of fluvial fish as an indicator of health of stream flow. There are two monitoring wells in Pelham. WRC would like to find location of these wells, as they are most likely close to the Shutesbury town line and could help in data collection.
4. Discussion of questions to be addressed by the WRC. Develop a one-page set of questions to be used as a starting point. Begin with general questions that lead to more specifics. What kind of water quality data is useful?
Paul had some general questions:
 - Current water quality problems in town? Where, if any?
 - How does the ground water move through town?
 - Health of aquifers?
 - Zoning changes needed?
 - Sub watersheds in town?
 - How is the town going to use water resources?
 - How is the town going to manage wastewater?

Hugh shared his document "Land-Use & Resource Management Decision Applications for Proposed Shutesbury Geophysical Database."

A role of the committee is to be preventative. The charge of the committee is to provide information to the Selectboard, and town, on the quantity, and quality of water in Shutesbury.

Committee members are all asked, for next meeting, to develop a broad outline of final report as a way to further clarify the direction of research for the committee.

5. Bill gave an overview of some existing data:
 - NRCS soil survey
 - Lake Wyola Watershed and Lake Nitrogen & Phosphorus Records
 - BOH Perc Test Files
 - BOH Well Test Files
6. Committee decided that the current # of committee members required for a quorum is at least 50% of current members present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for 3/23/11, 7 pm at the Shutesbury Town Hall.