**Shutesbury Water Resources Committee**

**Minutes of August 11, 2014**

Members Present:

 Paul Lyons (acting chair)

 Mike Ross (recorder)

 April Stein

 Al Werner

Guests:

 Michael Vinskey

1. Minutes from June 2, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved as written by unanimous vote.
2. Member updates – there is now an at large opening since Al Werner is now

 representing Board of Health.

1. Paul Lyons suggested members review list of town residents to look for expertise that might be useful to the Committee. Suggested that full membership be discussed at next meeting
2. Leslie Bracebridge dropped off list of town residents in two different formats during the meeting; listings by road and by alphabetical order. April Stein offered to review a listing prior to next meeting; she selected the listing by road and address.
3. Al Werner provided committee with an update on progress for the well monitoring project.
	1. Four sites have been identified, as listed in Committee Minutes of 6/02/14 (three on public land and one on SAC site).
	2. Driller’s contract was accepted after bidding process was carried out – advantageous bid will allow addition of some associated monitoring equipment and/or services.
	3. Driller visited all sites on 8/11/14.
	4. Preparation on all sites was relatively minor. Al Werner, with help, did vegetation cutting necessary for site access. Shutesbury Highway Department contributed to site preparation. As of 8/11/14 sites are basically “ready to go”.
	5. Exact placement of wells is still being determined, as is the type of mount (flush or standpipe). These considerations will be site specific.
	6. Driller will commence work by mid-August.
	7. Al Werner and Paul Lyons have held numerous meetings concerning initiation of this project, including meeting twice with Select Board, once with the Conservation Commission, and once with the SAC Board of Directors. Also, all abutters have been notified, many in person, and all others that were not available for direct discussion received a mail notification.
4. Discussion was held concerning the start-up of monitoring, specifics of what monitoring will be done initially, and additional monitoring costs once wells are drilled and ready.
	1. Al noted that level loggers would need to be purchased, and that the software and readers necessary to collect information from the loggers is being provided free of cost by Mount Holyoke for one year.
	2. Mike Ross noted that, due to: a) Al’s sabbatical from Mount Holyoke to conduct this work, b) access to Mount Holyoke equipment, etc. through Al, c) a grant provided by Mount Holyoke; the town is obviously receiving benefit of this project without having to provide funds for entire cost. Suggested that the Committee makes sure the town is provided information concerning how the cost of this work is “matched” with other sources of money, thus how cost effective the information gain will be.
5. Associated activities beyond monitoring water level were discussed, especially as related to cost of those activities
	1. One is testing to determine the characterization of bedrock fractures.
	2. Another expense might be accrued due to the necessity to drill one or more wells deeper than the 100 feet projected in the drilling specifications.
6. If need to drill deeper arises, in order to avoid delays in drilling and thus additional costs accrued by such delays, Mike MOVED THAT “Al Werner be provided the leeway to modify drilling specifications on site as/if unforeseen peculiarities of each site are identified, with the total additional costs of such modification not to exceed $2,000.00” – motion was seconded and unanimously approved (4 affirmative, 0 negative). It was agreed that anything that would exceed $2,000.00 would need to be brought back to the full Committee for discussion and decision.
7. It was discussed and agreed that the Committee assure that the town (via its Boards?) has a clear understanding of what various activities will be associated with the project, the cost of such activities, and the usefulness of information the town will receive from this work.
8. On another matter, Paul requested that members read the NOI Concerning Maintenance of town roads and stormwater structures by the Shutesbury Highway Department and forward comments to the Conservation Commission in order to provide them with timely input.