

Mattapoissett River Valley
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2016

The Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Board of Public Works, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA.

In attendance:

Town of Fairhaven	Vincent Furtado Geoffrey Haworth, II	appointed indefinitely term expires: 4/2017
Town of Marion	Paul Dawson David Pierce Rob Zora	term expires: term expires: 6/ 2016 term expires: 6/ 2016
Town of Mattapoissett	Dan Chase Barry Denham Henri Renauld	term expires: 4/ 2016 term expires: 4/2016 term expires: 4/ 2016
Town of Rochester	Laurell J. Farinon Sandy Keese Fred Underhill	term expires: 4/ 2016 term expires: 4/2018 term expires: 4/ 2018

Others in attendance were: Patrick O'Neale, Tata & Howard

Chairman Furtado called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m., and welcomed back Sandy Keese as a representative for the Town of Rochester in place of Naida Parker.

1. Acceptance of minutes of January 20, 2016 and February 9, 2016
Mr. Underhill motioned approval of the January 20, 2016 and February 9, 2016 minutes, Mr. Pierce seconded, all in favor.
2. Treasurer's Report
Copies of MRVWSPAC account balances as of March 1, 2016 were distributed by Treasurer Pierce. Mr. Zora questioned the allocation of \$112,000 in the Treasurer's report for the 114-acre Tinkham land purchase. Mr. Zora reported that the Town of Marion CPA Committee has committed to put a \$65,000 request on the upcoming annual town meeting; therefore the full \$112,000 will not be needed from the MRVWSPAC if the article successfully passes. Mr. Underhill motioned that the MRVWSPAC revise their prior

commitment from \$112,000 to \$60,000 due to the Marion CPA article, Ms. Keese seconded, all in favor. Mr. Furtado agreed to contact the Buzzards Bay Coalition to inform them of the vote.

Treasurer Pierce reported that it was a quiet month with only one check issued to Elizabeth Leidhold in the amount of \$252.00, leaving a monthly balance of \$159,906.35. Treasurer Pierce reported that he was not anticipating any major expenditures in the next few months. Mr. Underhill motioned approval of the Treasurer's report, Mr. Zora seconded, all in favor.

Members that were present signed the following invoices:

- Elizabeth Leidhold \$ 216.00
- Megan McCarthy \$ 130.00
- Tata & Howard \$ 745.00

Mr. Denham motioned payment of the above referenced invoices, Mr. Chase seconded, all in favor.

3. Surface Water Protection Bylaw

Mr. Chase reported that he submitted the bylaw to the Town of Mattapoisett for inclusion on the annual town meeting warrant. Chairman Furtado reported that he has submitted it in the Town of Fairhaven. Mr. Pierce submitted the article in the Town of Marion, however it may be put on hold for further review. Mr. Underhill reported that the bylaw was approved by the Rochester Water Commission last fall and will be on the next scheduled town meeting.

4. District Rules/ Regulations for Surface Water Withdrawals

Mr. Pierce distributed copies of an e-mail he received from Attorney Crotty setting forth options for regulation of surface water withdrawals. Mr. Crotty summarized that the MRVWDC has the following options:

- An aggressive interpretation of Chapter 367 article 15 suggests that the MRVWDC has legal authority to bring an action in the courts to stop someone from drawing water from the Mattapoisett River
- The MRVWDC could request the General Court to amend Chapter 367 to give the District broad regulatory authority over the use of the Mattapoisett River and aquifer
- MRVWDC member towns could regulate the practice of drawing surface water by adopting a general bylaw

Mr. Underhill stated he is opposed to opening up Chapter 367 for amendment, and thus potentially compromising existing MRVWDC rights. Anything could potentially happen when the legislation is scrutinized. It was agreed by all that member communities will pursue adoption of local general bylaws.

5. Review of Planning Board Filings in the Mattapoisett River Watershed
Chairman Furtado, Mr. Renauld and Ms. Keese will serve on the subcommittee to review Planning Board filings.

Chairman Furtado reported that Mr. Osuch turned over all MRVWSPAC records to him, and he will continue to be the keeper of committee records.

Mr. Pierce reported that he and his wife are hosting a pot luck recognition dinner at his home for Mr. Osuch and Mr. Nicholson on Friday April 22nd. All members and their spouses are invited to attend.

Mr. Underhill motioned adjournment of the meeting at 4:20 p.m., Mr. Chase seconded, all in favor. The next meeting of the MRVWSPAC will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.