

Mattapoissett River Valley
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2016

The Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, September 13, 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	appointed indefinitely
	Mark Rees	appointed indefinitely
Town of Marion	Paul Dawson	term expires: 6/2017
	David Pierce	term expires: 6/ 2017
	Rob Zora	term expires: 6/ 2017
Town of Mattapoissett	William Nicholson	term expires: 4/ 2017
	Henri Renaud	term expires: 4/ 2017
Town of Rochester	Laurell J. Farinon	term expires: 4/ 2018
	Sandy Keese	appointed indefinitely

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

Absent Members: Dan Chase term expires: 4/ 2016
Fred Underhill term expires: 4/ 2018

Chairman Furtado called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

1. Acceptance of minutes of August 9, 2016 meeting
Mr. Pierce motioned approval of the August 9, 2016 minutes, Mr. Zora seconded, all in favor.
2. Treasurer's Report
Treasurer Pierce reported that all towns have paid their annual assessment. Copies of MRVWSPAC account balances as of September 1, 2016 were distributed by Treasurer Pierce, who reported that the current balance is \$243,838.42. There were no checks written in the month of August.

Mr. Dawson motioned approval of the September Treasurer's report, Mr. Zora seconded, all in favor.

Members that were present signed the following invoices:

- Meagan McCarthy \$ 156.00
- Nettles Design \$ 90.00
- Tata & Howard \$ 3,428.00
- David Watling (June) \$ 262.00
- David Watling (July) \$ 215.90
- David Watling (August) \$ 213.98

Mr. Pierce motioned payment of the above referenced invoices, Mr. Dawson seconded, all in favor.

3. Tinkham Woods Project

Mr. Renauld reported that after paying all expense on the Tinkham Woods project, the final amount needed to close out the project is \$11,458.84 for closing and related costs. Treasurer Pierce motioned payment of \$11,458.84 towards the Tinkham Woods project, Mr. Zora seconded, all in favor.

4. Discuss Water Restrictions and Results of September 8, 2016 Drought Task Force Meeting

Mr. O'Neale reported that the southeast region of Massachusetts is classified as being in a "warning" status. There is a ban on all outdoor watering. Photos were distributed showing drought conditions near the treatment plant and water flowing under Wolf Island Road in Rochester.

Mr. O'Neale distributed a 2016 monthly data summary and graphs showing the average low, high and 2016 actual water elevations at MW-2S and MW-2. Mr. O'Neale recommended that the MRVWSPAC run all the levels every month and report back to the MRVWSPAC.

Mr. Renauld reported that after his voluntary outdoor ban, 800,000 gallons less of water was used than the week before.

Mr. O'Neale will forward water ban language from the draft bylaw to each of the water departments for review and approval. The plan is to present a united front of consistent regulation of outdoor water use.

Mr. O’Neale reported that the 2013 report is completed and they are working on the 2014 report and updates.

5. MRVWSPAC Web Site Update

Ms. Farinon reported that she provided Nettles Design with 2015 and 2016 meeting minutes, as well as updates to the member list and officers. She recommended that committee members view the site and forward any comments for changes and/or updates.

6. New Business

Mr. Pierce reported that Elizabeth Leidhold will be stepping down from monthly water monitoring and data collection, and suggested that David Watling is willing and able to take over. Ms. Leidhold has offered to serve as a back-up in the future if needed. Mr. Zora motioned that the MRVWSPAC appoint Mr. Watling to conduct data collection in place of Ms. Leidhold, Mr. Dawson seconded, all in favor.

Mr. Pierce reported that Ms. McCarthy has been very busy in her new position, and has been fitting in the MRVWSPAC graphing in her spare time. He suggested that it may be too much for her with her busy schedule, and is waiting to hear back from her about whether she is willing and able to continue the work.

Discussion ensued about the need for Tata & Howard to provide monthly water level graphs and reports to the MRVWSPAC. Mr. Renauld motioned that the MRVWSPAC authorize Tata & Howard to prepare monthly reports and graphs, Mr. Zora seconded, all in favor. Mr. Nicholson recommended that monthly rainfall data be included.

Discussion ensued about the Buzzards Bay Coalition e-mail sent to Ms. Farinon and forwarded to committee members about Mattapoisett River water levels. The e-mail stated that photos and video of the dry Mattapoisett River bed were forwarded to the DEP Riverways Program. All agreed that they would like to see the Coalition notify the MRVWSPAC before contacting the state.

It was noted that the MRVWSPAC has not yet received the promised Buzzards Bay Coalition letter of support for the towns’ Water Management Act permit renewals. Mr. Furtado will contact Executive Director Rasmussen to request the letter prior to the next meeting.

Ms. Farinon motioned adjournment of the meeting at 4:57 p.m., Mr. Dawson seconded, all in favor.