

Mattapoisett River Valley  
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2020

The Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. remotely using Zoom Meeting ID: 838 2499 7857 or by calling 1-646-876-9923.

In attendance:

Town of Fairhaven	Vincent Furtado	appointed indefinitely
Town of Marion	Meghan Davis	term expires: 6/2021
Town of Mattapoisett	Dan Chase	term expires: 4/ 2020
	Henri Renauld	term expires: 4/ 2020
	William Nicholson	term expires: 4/ 2020
Town of Rochester	Rick Charon	term expires: 4/ 2021
	Laurell J. Farinon	term expires: 4/ 2021
	Sandy Keese	appointed indefinitely
Others in attendance:	Jon Gregory	Tata & Howard
	Blair Bailey	Counsel
Absent Members:	Jeffrey Furtado	appointed indefinitely
	Mark Rees	appointed indefinitely
	Randy Parker	term expires: 6/2021
	David Willett	term expires: 6/2021

Chairman Vincent Furtado called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

1. Acceptance of minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting  
Mr. Nicholson motioned approval of the August 11, 2020 meeting minutes, Mr. Chase seconded. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained (6-0-2) with Mrs. Farinon and Mr. Charon abstaining.
2. Treasurer's Report  
Treasurer Jeffrey Furtado had e-mailed members earlier in the day that his travel was delayed and he is out of state; he will have the Treasurer's report available at the October meeting.

Members that were present signed the following invoices:

- Blair Bailey \$ 50.00
- William David Watling \$ 252.09
- Tata & Howard \$ 133.66
- Meagan McCarthy \$ 987.31
- Meagan McCarthy \$ 153.00

Ms. Keese motioned acceptance of the Treasurer's Report as presented and authorize Chairman Vincent Furtado and Mr. Renauld to sign the vouchers, Mr. Chase seconded, all in favor. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

3. Annual Election of Officers

Mrs. Farinon motioned to retain all current officers in their respective positions; Mr. Nicholson seconded, all in favor. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

The final elected slate of MRVWDC officers is as follows:

Chairman	Vincent Furtado, Fairhaven
Vice Chairman	Henri Renauld, Mattapoisett
Treasurer	David Pierce, Marion
Secretary	Laurell J. Farinon, Rochester

4. Discuss Beaver Dams on Mattapoisett River

Discussion ensued about the three beaver dams south of New Bedford Road on the Mattapoisett River that are impacting the southerly flow of surface water. Mrs. Farinon and Attorney Bailey explained that the Town of Rochester has been dealing with complaints from cranberry growers concerned that they will not have the water that they need to harvest cranberries this fall. There are sections of the Mattapoisett River that have no surface water flow due to the drought.

The Town was contacted by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Southeast Wildlife District and made aware of the beaver dams and that that local and state permitting is required to trap beaver in advance of the November hunting season, which is by special license only. A request for a local permit from the Board of Health must be made by the property owner of the property where the dam lies.

Discussion ensued about options, and Attorney Bailey recommended that the MRVWSPAC vote to encourage and assist the aggrieved cranberry growers to get permission from landowners to trap the beaver and remove dams.

Mr. Charon motioned that the MRVWSPAC vote to encourage and assist the aggrieved cranberry growers to get permission from landowners to trap the beaver and remove dams, and Mr. Chase seconded. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 6 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstained (6-1-1) with Ms. Keese voting in opposition and Mrs. Farinon abstaining.

5. Discuss Surface Water Levels on Mattapoisett River

Mr. Renauld reported that the southeast region of Massachusetts is in the middle of a stage 2 significant drought as declared by DEP. Recently he was made aware of a local contractor with a hydro-seeder drafting water out of the Mattapoisett River on the southerly side of Route 6. There was evidence of fertilizer spilled in the area as a result of the withdrawal. Mr. Renauld reminded members that the Town of Mattapoisett set up a hydrant for sale of water to businesses at a nominal expense to avoid direct withdrawal of water from the river. Discussion ensued about assessment of penalties and/or posting of signs. Mrs. Farinon noted that similar incidents have occurred at Snipatuit Pond and locations on the Mattapoisett River in Rochester.

Chairman Furtado motioned to request the MRVWDC to erect a sign at the District owned Route 6 Mattapoisett property that the property be utilized for recreational use only, Mrs. Farinon seconded, all in favor. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

Mr. Gregory reported that he was notified by David Watling that there were issues with the memory capacity of the level loggers on the Mattapoisett River. It was necessary to visit each station, download the data and purge old data to create capacity in the level logger. Ms. Davis recommended that the level loggers be checked on a regular schedule, possibly every six months (spring and fall) to clear old data.

Mr. Chase motioned to adjourn the meeting of the MRVWSPAC at 4:14 p.m., Ms. Davis seconded, all in favor. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).