

**WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**PO Box 970**  
**Shelter Island, NY 11964**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**January 11, 2016**

**Members Present:** Ken Pysher, Albert Dickson, BJ Ianfolla, Gregory Toner, Will Anderson,  
Town Liaison- Mary Dudley

**Members Excused:** Peter Grand

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 7, 2016 at 7:00 PM.**

**December 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved.**

**Monitoring Well Information:**

Acting Chairman Pysher stated that 9 wells trended higher and 4 wells were lower for the level readings taken on 12/17/15. 9 of the 13 wells are below their December averages with the Shelter Island Heights well at it lowest ever level of 5.12' (it highest December level was 7.43' measured in 2005). Overall the trend is positive but having 9 wells below their December averages means we still need lots more rain.

Greg Toner will be doing the well monitoring for next month. Well monitoring reports are also available in Drop Box.

**Old Business:**

**USGS Contracts**

Member Greg Toner stated that we did not get a detailed USGS Contract Report to review. He wanted to know if Supervisor Dougherty signed the contracts. Councilwoman Mary Dudley said she did not know, but she believes in a conference call, the supervisor brought up that the contracts did not have correct descriptions and the USGS was asked to incorporate the proposal in the contracts.

**USGS Project Report**

Member Greg Toner stated that the USGS would not be at the meeting tonight because the contract was not signed so the will not come in until February or March. The sampling testing will not be until April.

Member Toner says we can compare the old study of salt intrusion form 1994 to compare with their new findings. Members BJ Ianfolla and Al Dickson agreed that we can use that data. Member Greg Toner would like to send this information to the USGS. Member Al Dickson asked why is the USGS waiting

until April. Member Greg Toner believes the USGS waits for there to be no snow. The WAC agreed that it is pertinent that the USGS sign the contracts. Member BJ Ianfolla reiterated that we need guidance from the USGS, and their information that we have hired them to gather, will be very helpful. Acting Chairman Ken Pysher stated that we are trying to grasp the salt water interface by looking at a cross section of Silver Beach, Menantic, and Shorewood.

The WAC considered the Town Engineer, John Cronin, being a consultant during the process with the USGS. John Cronin's expertise is on nitrates and **GIS Systems???** Acting Chairman Ken Pysher says we would need Town approval to pay Cronin as a consultant. Member Greg Toner offered if we had him on for 20 hours approved by the TB, he is somebody who is dialed in. He opined that we should have his opinion. Maybe he should consider being a member. Member BJ Ianfolla felt that we should wait to use John Cronin. Instead we should just get going on what we have ready with the USGS. Member Ianfolla went on to say that we could offer John to attend the WAC meeting when the USGS attends. Member Al Dickson agreed.

### **Status of FOIL Review with Suffolk County Health Dept.**

Acting Chairman Ken Pysher stated that we have held off on scheduling a meeting with Suffolk County until Laury Dowd can put something together with 5th the Town Board members and someone from the WAC can attend. Acting Chairman Ken Pysher stated that we could get some good insight into why they require certain guidelines in respect to size of pumps, wells, and septic systems. Acting Chairman Ken Pysher questioned their reasoning behind putting wells by the bulk head and the septic by the road. Member BJ Ianfolla stated that she believes they are trying to keep raw sewage from going into the bay. Acting Chairman Ken went on to say that it puts the burden on the town and the homeowner.

The WAC agreed that the Town needs to begin a dialogue with Suffolk County. They need to need better understand our near shore areas. The amount of water that is drawn from those homes, for example, with 6 bedrooms verses the number of occupants needs to be considered.

Member Bill Anderson stated that West Neck water has individual water meters and the usage is tracked that way. WAC members talked about different neighborhoods on the Island having small systems to track water usage. Member BJ Ianfolla stated Suffolk County wouldn't be interested in doing that unless they could regulate the whole island.

WAC agreed that these are also good questions to ask USGS.

Chris Tehan of the building department is collecting well information on new homes for Suffolk County. The new owner has to have a copy of the well report and a water test, during building.

### **Status - "Fragile Zone"**

Member Greg Toner questioned if we can't name a fragile zone then maybe we shouldn't have a fragile zone. Member Toner submitted an illustration of a near shore overlay. Member Toner opined on how the Town Board could proceed and modify the existing overlay:

- for every bedroom, the owner shall install a hundred gallon pressurized tank.
- how do you enforce pool covers?

- the use of cisterns.

Members BJ Ianfolla and Al Dickson liked his suggestions, but think the pool covers and cisterns are important to keep in the guidelines. Member Toner went on to discuss depth of the excavation and its closeness to the top of the aquifer, any grandfathered system. Will lose that status if the overlay is disrupted and causes intrusion on another person's well.

Member BJ Ianfolla brought up reverse osmosis and that it should be re-evaluated as a tool to help this problem.

The WAC agreed that these amendments to the recommendation on the Fragile Overlay be given to the WAC to look over first, before being sent on to the Town Board. Member BJ Ianfolla, for the record, stated that it is an alternative vision with the fragile overlay and that she is ok with the fragile overlay zone. Acting Chairman Ken Pysher agreed, and said it more of a Town Board decision.

### **New Business:**

#### **CPFAB**

Acting Chairman, Ken Pysher stated that 20% of the funds from the CPFAB can be used for other than land, like water conservation, water projects, fuel tank removal, and septic.

A subcommittee consisting of Supervisor Dougherty, a member of the WAC, a member of the CPFAB, Laury Dowd, and council members will meet to discuss logistics. Councilman Mary Dudley said we are working with the other towns who are putting this proposal together for a referendum in the fall. Member BJ Ianfolla will represent the WAC on this committee.

#### **WAC Charter**

Acting Chairman Ken Pysher stated that the Charter is what we are supposed to be doing as a committee. He asked the WAC to look it over. Acting Chairman Ken Pysher opined that maybe the new homeowners should have some guidelines as to how to treat their land and water. Member Bill Anderson agrees that an information sheet should be handed to a new home owner with information on recycling, water, and septic. Councilwoman Mary Dudley thinks a booklet is a wonderful idea. Acting Chairman Ken Pysher ended by saying people are not aware of the fact that their water may be salted.

Member BJ Ianfolla stated that in 2016, the WAC should focus on recommendations for the people who don't have drinking water because of intrusion.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Flynn  
Clerk to the WAC