

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**March 10, 2014**

**Members Present:** Chairman John Hallman, William Anderson, Ken Pysher, Town Liaison Supervisor Dougherty

**Members Excused:** Hoot Sherman, Peter Grand

The meeting opened at 7:40 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 14, 2014 at 7:30PM.**

**The minutes from February 10, 2014, were approved.**

**Correspondence:**

Chairman Hallman reported that he received an e-mail from Member Grand stating that he will be unable to attend this meeting and the next meeting. He noted that Member Grand requested changing the meeting dates and was advised that the meeting dates have been pre-scheduled.

**New Business:**

**Monitoring Well Information:**

Member Pysher reported that 5 wells are still going down after all that rain: Rocky Point, Big Ram, Little Ram, Dering Harbor and Hay Beach. The Rocky Point well is matching its lowest level of 2002 and Hay Beach has established a new low level for this February.

He reported that the Manhasset well shows no change in water level but is 31% below its average February level.

He noted that 7 wells are trending up even though 5 of them are below their normal average February levels.

He noted that this very cold winter with the frozen ground is a detriment to recharging the aquifer.

The WAC agreed that a lot of replenishment needs to occur between now and May-June when the withdrawal season begins. They also agreed that they should certainly see all wells trending up in March.

Chairman Hallman stated that he would like to purchase a rain gauge for Member Pysher to put in Silver Beach because they tend to get more rain there.

**Update on Irrigation Committee and Tamson Yeh Presentation:**

Chairman Hallman reported that Tamson Yeh of Cornell Cooperative gave a great 90 minute presentation on Saturday, March 1, 2014. He noted that she knows her stuff and made some excellent points regarding the aquifer. The WAC received a CD of her presentation.

Member Pysher opined that legally protecting neighbors from having their wells salted by someone who decides to irrigate, is something that must be considered.

Chairman Hallman also reported that at the March 6, 2014 meeting, the hydrologist presented his report to the Irrigation Committee via speaker phone. He noted that the hydrologist now understands the importance of water level monitoring. He also confirmed that the south side of Shelter Island does not have a lot of fresh water. He noted that it was stated that the water pressure in the Center is continually pushing out. The WAC reviewed the paper report and agreed that the graphs are very helpful.

### **Silver Beach:**

Member Pysher reported that each Silver Beach Association resident receives a survey with their request for dues, in the form of a poll at the bottom of the page containing three Levels to choose from:

- 1) Have no problem with water.
- 2) I have experienced a problem, which was minor and it has been corrected.
- 3) I have experienced many problems, was unable to drink the water, had to have an expensive filtration system installed.

He reported that 40% of the people who have responded checked Level # 2 or #3. He said he is hoping to get back approximately 170 to 190 responses.

Chairman Hallman stated that there are people who can no longer drink their water due to salt water intrusion as a result of Hurricane Sandy. He opined that the Town should consider helping these people somehow, possibly drilling a well for those people. The WAC generally felt the SCDH would not approve that.

The WAC reviewed and discussed this issue and possible remedies, including the use of cisterns to collect roof run-off.

### **Water Quantity and Quality:**

Mr. Howard Johansen noted that the hydrologist report indicates that the water quantity and quality has been improving.

Member Pysher noted that the rise in sea level could be influencing the trending up of wells, and it should be noted that just because the well level is trending up doesn't necessarily mean you have more water.

Chairman Hallman noted that the wells that were sampled are not used for anything and are therefore stagnant.

The WAC agreed that this is not an exact science.

### **Green Fair:**

Chairman Hallman announced that the Town Board is considering rescheduling the Green Fair to coincide with the annual August Craft Fair and Fire Department Country Fair. The WAC agreed that the August date should encourage more people to attend.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Danielle LiCausi  
Clerk to the Committees