

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PO Box 970
Shelter Island, NY 11964

MINUTES OF MEETING
May 12, 2014

Members Present: William Anderson, Ken Pysher, Hoot Sherman, Peter Grand, Town Liaison Supervisor Dougherty

Members Excused: Chairman John Hallman

Others Present: Howard Johansen

The meeting opened at 7:35 PM

Minutes of March 10, 2014 and April 14, 2014 were approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 9, 2014 at 7:30PM.**

New Business:

Monitoring Well Information:

Member Pysher reported that 12 wells are trending up, except for Little Ram which has trended down and is at its all-time low for April. He noted that Brander and Menantic Road are the only wells that are measuring above their April averages.

Global Warming:

Member Pysher noted that over the last hundred years our sea level has risen by a foot. The new projections, based on observation, not model, predict that the sea level will rise by 3 feet over the next hundred years.

Member Sherman reported that studies show that rainfall in the Northeast between 1958 and 2012 has increased by 71 percent.

The WAC confirmed that regardless of how much rainfall we get, the aquifer can only hold so much freshwater.

Update on Irrigation Committee:

Member Pysher reported that he wrote to Thom Milton regarding some questions he had about the study that the hydro-geologist had compiled. He noted that the main question was the correlation between the rising sea levels and the rising well levels. He reported that he received a response stating that we do have more fresh water. Member Pysher stated that he challenged the accuracy of this response, and noted that he is still trying to shed more light on this issue. He shared data and findings from various studies that he is reviewing and noted that they were sent to the hydro-geologist with more questions.

Member Sherman noted that he was advised that the Chairman of the Irrigation Committee or one of the members were planning to attend this WAC meeting tonight, but he doesn't see anyone from the Irrigation Committee here.

He reported that he read in the Shelter Island Report that it appears that the Irrigation Committee will be recommending that the Town Board allow the existing irrigation systems to remain in use as long as they are updated, certified and inspected and permitted.

Green Fair:

Member Sherman confirmed that he will be unable to participate this year as his time is already committed to the Fire Department that day. The WAC discussed the possibility of inviting Ron Paulson to speak at the fair, and agreed that Chairman Hallman should speak with him.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle LiCausi
Clerk to the Committees