

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**PO Box 970
Shelter Island, NY 11964**

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 14, 2015

Members Present: Hoot Sherman, Peter Grand, Ken Pysher, Albert Dickson, BJ Ianfolla, Gregory Toner, Town Liaison- Supervisor Dougherty

Member Excused: Will Anderson

The meeting opened at 7:30 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7:30PM.**

July 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Monitoring Well Information:

Member Pysher reported that we had an all-time low average in August, with **well #10-** Dering Harbor Village, testing the lowest. Mr. Pysher did say he did not believe the Island has a water emergency because we have had over 4 inches of rain in the last two weeks. In discussing past levels, the 1970's were low and in 20002 there was a real dip in the levels. In 2006, the levels were at an all-time high. Chairman Sherman recalls that in 1994 there were advisory/restrictions on water use.

Old Business:

Green Fair:

BJ Ianfolla stated that she, as well as Peter Grand and Greg Toner attended the Green Fair with a slow start. As the day picked up, they were able to reach out to many people.

USGS Water Quality Proposal:

Chairman Sherman shared that this proposal was outlined to the Town Board as part of the 2016 Budget and then a letter was sent to the Board to highlight, and make clearer, the expense side of the USGS plan. Members stressed that quality of our water with a factual database is imperative. This testing program will aid the Town Board in making real based decisions because of the data that will be able to be collected.

New Business:

House Size Limit:

Members got into a lengthy discussion involving water quality and house size. The concern is the larger the house, the more people, increased use of the septic system, and ends up affecting the quality of our water. Members concluded that the importance of testing and limiting the number of bedrooms could have a positive impact on our water quality. They decided to write a one page letter to the Board to voice these concerns.

Salt Water Intrusion:

Member Ken Pysher brought up a salt water intrusion problem in his own well. He summarized for the members what happened to his drinking water over the summer. A neighbor constructed a pool, where they were pumping out water for days in order to put in the foundation. These are fragile wetland areas. Pysher stated that there is nothing in the Town Code to restrict the depth and/or pumping below the water table. He reached out to the DEC and you need a special permit if the construction project has the capacity to pump over 100,000 gallons a day.

He has his own well tested regularly. Pysher has real data that in June the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) level was an acceptable, 105 ppm. Then in July the results showed an alarming higher TDS level of 925 ppm. He believes that the pumping of the water out of that property is the reason for the spike of sodium chloride (405 mg/l) in his water. He spoke with Ceasola. A new well will cost \$4,000 and raising the well up would also cost \$4,000. Litigation to recoup damages would probably cost even more. Member Pysher has also reached out to North Shore Wells for a consultation.

Members also expressed concerns that salt intrusion could result in the corroding of pipes and appliances. Chairman Sherman stated a repeat of the salt intrusion could happen again if more pumping like this occurs along the wetlands.

The committee recommended that the WAC and CAC get together to discuss this hole in the Town Code in regards to pumping near fragile wetlands, and hopefully come up with some suggestions for the Town Board to explore.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Flynn
Clerk to the Committees