

## **West Barnstable Water Commissioners**

**April 13, 2019**

**9:30am**

**1717 Meetinghouse**

**2049 Meetinghouse Way, West Barnstable, MA 02668**

Present: Arne Ojala, Mark Wirtanen and Kris Clark

Others Present: Van Northcross of the West Barnstable Prudential Committee, Nancy Meagher, president of the West Barnstable Civic Association, Councilor Phil Wallace and about 23 attendees of this joint meeting.

Chairman Arne Ojala opened the Water Commissioners meeting at 9:41am after an introduction by West Barnstable Civic Association president, Nancy Meagher.

Arne explained to those attending that the West Barnstable Water Commissioners were asked to consider the possibility of leasing or selling water from our water district in order to raise funds for the Fire Department. So, it is this initiative that caused us to bring the discussion to the West Barnstable community so that there is greater awareness of this issue.

Arne gave an overview of the history of the water commissioners in West Barnstable. There was a decision to test the water in West Barnstable in the 1970's. In 1977, a pumping test was done on conservation land in the Bridge Creek Conservation Area off Meetinghouse Way, the well located behind the West Barnstable Fire Station. Wells were drilled in different areas to find possible sites to test, being a two-part operation. The site behind the fire station was one of the earlier test sites selected for a formal pumping test for (then) DEQE approval. From the pumping test it was determined that the site could produce one million gallons per day for the village if developed as a water supply source. There was a 400' radius placed around that well, being #15-75, providing the required protection of the zone for that well. In anticipation of future use of the site, Tom Cambereri of the Cape Cod Commission established a mapped zone of contribution, limiting activities that can occur in that zone. One of the older sites that was looked at, now contains wells that are owned and operated by Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Water District.

Then in 1999, a permanent, perpetual easement was obtained from the Barnstable Conservation Commission in exchange for \$350,000 contributed by the West Barnstable Fire District taxpayers towards the Town's purchase of the Conant property, which is now operated as the non-profit, Meetinghouse Farm, Inc.

More recently, the Water Commissioners have written letters to Eversource, requesting that they limit their use of herbicides in their easements that run along recharge areas in West Barnstable to maintain the integrity of our water supply.

This past January, the Prudential Committee asked the Water Commissioners if we would consider the possibility of selling or leasing water from our district to another water supply group. This prompted us

looking at old documents regarding that well. We also sent a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection looking to find out the status of well #15-75 in their estimation. They sent us a letter in March 2019 with their determination that this well would need approval as new source which would be lengthy and expensive, likely over \$1 million. We intend to send a letter to the state to see what our options would be. We may also have to hire a consultant to see what would be involved.

After looking into this request and receiving the response from DEP, the Water Commissioners met and voted to not sell water from the West Barnstable Water District at this time.

No questions were asked by the attendees.

MOTION: by Mark; Seconded by Arne:  
To adjourn. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52am.

Respectfully submitted  
Kris Clark, Clerk