

POTTER HILL DAM INFORMATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2021

Ashaway Fire Station, 213 Main Street – 2nd Floor, Ashaway, RI 02804

6:00 P.M. Call to Order.

1. Attendance and meeting protocol – 5 minutes
 - a. Jim, Roger, Carl, Bob, Marie, Howie
 - b. Gloria and Jared Rose
 - c. Joe Moreau, Director of Public Welfare
 - d. Dan and Elaine Malone
 - e. Dan Bueno
2. Review and accept the prior meeting minutes – 5 minutes
Accepted
3. **Old business**
 - a. Surveys-just rec'd the updated list from Lisa Cook - Martin
 - i. 126 total records,
 1. 24 from Bradford/Westerly,
 2. 102 from Ashaway/Hopkinton
 - ii. This is a first look additional review and analysis is needed
 - iii. If a single owner has more than one well or property has two wells, Gina Fuller has indicated that they must clear cookies or use a different browser
 - b. Johnson's Pond
 - i. Roger contacted but got no response
 - ii. Joe Moreau found articles on Turn to 10, and on the Coventry website Johnsons Pond
 - iii. Johnson's Pond Assoc = 600 members does not have legal representation from the town
 - iv. Per Carl, (Jerry, real estate agent) town residents have independent counsel their atty is William Landry, who knows our town and was involved with Hopkinton solar projects
 - v. Joe contacted S. Moffitt several months ago and asked to have his name given to us
 - c. Scott did contact the Dept of Health, not much they can do as this is not a quality concern.
4. **New business**
 - a. per Carl: It appears that Westerly councilors did not receive the letter dated July 28 from Hopkinton as it was addressed to Lisa Pellegrini. Steve did not specifically send the letter to the town council, but CC'd them.

- b. Jim had emailed each Westerly town council member directly in May but rec'd no response.
- c. Dan Malone asked about DEM- They will not get involved until the permits are pulled.
- d. Bob called the town Finance Director to ask if any monies come from the state, no response.
 - i. Joe Moreau also called
- e. Sharon reached out to Nils Walberg, who was willing to meet with us on September 28th.
 - i. Lisa Pellegrini indicated that the meeting will need to be after October 18.
 - ii. Nils told Sharon he did not have the answers to the questions we supplied.
- f. Jim and his wife took Sharon Davis, Bob Marvel, Marie and Tim Ward on a tour of the river on Sunday, 9/26. Westerly town council members were also out on the river with some Westerly residents
- g. Letter from Steve Sypole was shared.
- h. Radio show coverage with John Garner on WBLQ is available as a podcast.
- i. Carl suggested drafting a press release

5. Discuss next steps – 5 minutes

- a. Jim will email Scott to get on the agenda for the 10/4 town council meeting. Joe added that we should submit the list of survey and property owners.
- b. Jim to follow up with Brian tomorrow, Wednesday, regarding robocall to all residents
- c. Formally invite Ron to upcoming meeting
- d. Questions for Ronny Sposato:
 - i. Questions about filling trucks with water
 - ii. Cannot use rescue boat to launch a rescue effort on the river, change response time from minutes to hours
 - iii. Boats cannot operate in one foot of water, muck on the banks 2-4 feet out, will take years for sediment to dry
 - iv. Per Howie, Westerly Police chief is aware of the situation with the river and rescues
 - v. Ask Ronny about rescue plans and how will they be affected
- e. Smell from the river if the dam is removed-add question to our list
- f. Were the Westerly info meetings documented by a stenographer? Public record laws?
- g. Marie send the [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition to meeting participants.

6. Set date of next meeting – October 5th, 2021

7. Adjournment.