

POTTER HILL DAM INFORMATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 12, 2021

Ashaway Fire Station, 213 Main Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ashaway, RI 02804

6:00 P.M. Call to Order.

1. Attendance and meeting protocol – 5 minutes
  - Jim, Roger, Carl, Bob, Marie, Howie
  - Dan Malone
  - Scott Bill
  - Jen Brinton
  
2. Review and accept the prior meeting minutes – 10 minutes
  - a. revisions to last week's minutes
  - b. accepted after revisions
  - c. will be sent out
  
3. Old business-
  - Well Survey - Gina did not send info, but Jim was late requesting it
  - Marie suggested cc'ing Sharon Ahern and Chief Lacey as town manager
  - Carl reminded us that Sharon Davis will make the requests because items are expedited
  - The Well Survey Request from Jim was made to Sharon and Lisa Cook Martin
  
4. New business
  - a. Ron Sposato did not send contact info about Team Warehousing
  - b. Dan spoke to a contact at NOAA
    - i. will get contact info for someone at Protective Resources
    - ii. Joe Gilbert said to get in touch with the Stonington Shellfish Commission whose members have oyster beds at the mouth of the river [stoningtonshellfishcommission.org](http://stoningtonshellfishcommission.org)
    - iii. An advising attorney made a statement saying that he was shocked that the Hopkinton Town Council was not addressing this issue, at all. Could not believe that a resident would need a private attorney.
  - c. Jen spoke to Sharon Ahern there is a need for more people at October 18 meeting than the vocal few who have spoken out.
    - i. Jen Fusco from the Westerly Land Trust has not taken a formal vote to take a position for or against the dam
    - ii. Tim from Nature Conservancy re. potential flooding, then Jen filled him in, he also said he will only have the Fuss and O'Neil

report for 5 days for vetting- a 501C3 has no business commenting on an engineering issue

iii. Jen contacted John Dorsey, to walk the mill property

- d. Scott- Did the Westerly Land Trust have a formal vote to agree to take down the dam?
- e. Jim asked Hopkinton Town Council to move meeting and attend the Westerly meeting on the 18
- f. Jim also requested the results of the report. Brian Rosso requested the report, Westerly responded yes, when it is available.
  - i. Moving the Town Council meeting was not addressed because John Dorsey, is meeting with Hopkinton Town Council that evening, and Steve Moffitt decided not to ask.
  - ii. Discussion about having representation of Hopkinton Town Council at the Westerly Meeting. Jim asked if all members can attend the Westerly Town meeting
    - 1. Any gov't board/committee cannot have majority of people at an open meeting would be a rolling quorum
    - 2. We are on radar of Brian Rosso to get the Fuss and O'Neil report to us
- g. Roger took Peter Ogle on river to videotape the river, dam to bridge
- h. Mark Lemoi is the person Roger reached out to at Johnsons Pond, but has not heard.
- i. Senator Morgan-reached out to Gina...what is the basis about the well failures and replacement?
  - i. 3 avenues for getting a replacement wells from Gina Fuller
    - 1. Option 1- 504 Program The town of Hopkinton is an eligible community in our residential loan/grant program. This means that if you have individual households who are very low income and need to replace their well, they may be potentially eligible for a low interest rate (1%) loan or possibly a grant if they are a senior. DWS program Department of water and sewer
    - 2. Option 2- DWS program This program helps qualified nonprofits to create a revolving loan fund to increase access to clean, reliable water and septic systems for households in eligible rural areas. All of Hopkinton would be considered rural under this program.
    - 3. Option 3- WEP program This program provides funding for Municipalities to provide clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. Funds may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and distribution. Long-term, low-interest loans are available to towns, and sometimes grant funds may be available, or

combined with a loan if necessary to keep user costs reasonable as compared to similar systems.. The town of Hopkinton would have to be willing to take a project like this on (positive vote from the town)to construct a system. The applicant must own, maintain, and operate the system.

5. Discuss next steps – 5 minutes

a. Westerly meeting on October 18- Carl, Jim and Roger to potentially speak.

i. Carl

1. To discuss the legality and quality of shallow wells compared to Westerly town wells,
2. Other dam removals-always proactively addressed private and public well issues
3. Quality of water
4. The detailed analysis of 3 ft shallow river depth are averages and have not taken into consideration drought and the inability of fish to pass
5. Water rescue - walk in vs boat per fire chief –
6. Fire department needs 2 feet of running water required to fill trucks

ii. Roger sediment-

- 1.2 million cubic feet of sediment expected to move
- Decker Report - Potter Hill Bridge scouring
- Quality of water downstream, clam beds, oyster beds, contact Stonington Shellfish Commission, Donald Murphy
- What has been done to study the potential impact of allowing non-native/invasive fish, vegetation species to proliferate?
- Cost of Bradford Dam to maintain and what is the maintenance

iii. Jim - overall

- Best dam replacement design per Fuss and Oneil is the step pool or riffle pool. Decker report also supports this

iv. Howie and Marie to attend Hopkinton Town Council

6. Set date of next meeting October 19<sup>th</sup> 2021

7. Adjournment.