

WATER-SEWER COMMISSION MEETING
November 12, 2013

Present: Leo Collette, Val Daigle, Charlie Packard, George Cornwall, Dave Berger, Steve Nims and Mary Calandrella
Several Abutters to the Reservoir : Speakers Mr. & Mrs. Timms Paul Maguire. Resident's Expert: Bob Hartzel, Lake Manager for Geocentric Environmental Consultants, Acton , MA

CALL TO ORDER

6:00pm

Motion to Approve the November 12, 2013 Agenda motion by George Cornwall, 2nd by Charlie Packard, vote was unanimous.

Motion to accept the October 15, 2013 minutes by Leo Collette, 2nd by Val Daigle, vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

On the agenda was the topic of the boating ban effective January 1, 2014. There were several abutters present along with the resident's hired expert, Bob Hartzel ,Lake Manager employed by Geocentric Environmental Consulting firm in Acton, MA. He spoke to the boards concerns on the two topics of bacteria and algae contamination. He stated that low level of bacteria and algae already exist in the body of water. He felt in his expert opinion that there would be no adverse effect from the use of rowboats on the reservoir. The residents also provide two additional expert opinions via email conservations from a Chris Picone, Dept. of Biology at Fitchburg State and Paerl Hans, Professor of Marine Sciences in South Carolina. Both email conservations state bacteria and algae probably already exist in the body of water to a certain level but would increase with more activity on the body of water. The residents were upset that the commission did not have an expert on hand. Leo stated to the audience that the board of water commissioners have every right to ban boating on the reservoir as they are the governing body for the reservoir. Leo again stating that his concern of allowing boating can possibility to cause a contamination problem at the reservoir. This reservoir is the only drinking water supply to both Ashburnham and Winchendon water takers with no alternative source. The residents wish to continue discussions on the ban to possibly state that only abutter can use the reservoir and/or permitting boats at the next December 10th meeting. Leo told Mr. Timms to notify Mary Calandrella in the W/S office with an agenda item and that it is due one week prior to the meeting date or it will not be listed on the next agenda. George Cornwall state that he has written up a propose course of actions for the reservoir and wishes to discuss at the next meeting.

Leo wants to post on our website notice of the boating ban that is scheduled to take effective January 1, 2014.

NEW BUSINESS

Charlie Packard brought to the commission thoughts on sprucing up the Old water tank site. He suggested flowers and possible benches. Steve stated that in the spring that there would be flowers planted there prior to Memorial Day.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Leo spoke on the lake levels being down 16 inches. It was stated that October was a very dry month. George Cornwall was more concerned on the Winchendon usage always being less than Ashburnham. He ask if Veolia track the usage in the plant and it was stated it was by their meter in the plant.

Leo also stated that the landscaper did a very nice job down by the spillway and again he stated that Veolia as part of their contract will be cutting the grass at the plant.

NEXT MEETING

December 10, 2013 @ 6:00pm

ADJOURN

Motion by: Val Daigle, 2nd by Dave Berger, vote was unanimous. 7:35pm

Respectfully Submitted b *Mary Calandrella*