Minutes of the Eastham Water Management Committee Meeting of November 10, 2015

Charles Harris convened the meeting in the Earle Mountain Room of Town Hall. Present also were members Blong, Guzowski, Lewis and Sisterson, and Health Agent Crowley.

Crowley reported briefly on the ongoing work on the Municipal Water System (MWS) and noted that updates were regularly posted on the town website. She noted also that the Board of Selectmen was considering draft regulations for the operation of the system.

With respect to ponds and estuaries she reported that a site visit had been done to identify the outfalls at Minister Pond and Salt Pond in preparation for sampling to establish for the State Highway Department the sources of the surface water entering the ponds and that Harris was set to begin the sampling shortly. In addition she had met with Dominick Meringolo of Aquatic Control Technologies to discuss a site visit to Minister/Schoolhouse and to talk about possible strategies. She reported that Meringolo agreed with Liz Moran’s doubts about the utility of aeration there and there had been some discussion about hydraulic power raking. She noted that selecting any approach would have to take account of the Conservation Committee’s concerns.

On development of the Town’s 208 plan, the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had not yet fulfilled its commitment to provide $30,000 of the $85,000 contract with GHD for its part of the work, which was causing some problems, because the legislature had not yet approved the budget. Also the Town had engaged Liz Moran to do the water quality analysis, determining the nitrate levels and was reviewing reports from DEP as well as additional data from 2004 to 2015 from three stations in Nauset Estuary including Salt Pond. Moran’s work would include commenting on the Massachusetts Estuaries Project report on Nauset Estuary.

On the landfill area four monitoring wells that went down about 100 feet were installed to try to establish the perimeter of the plume to meet Dep requirements.

The Town’s submission to the New England Water Environmental Association on watershed management approaches was selected for presentation at its January conference.

With respect to the proposed letter from the committee to Sharon Shipley, Crowley reported that the Town Administrator was providing the letter to BOS to consider at its next meeting whether it wished to be a joint signatory to the letter. Harris reported on a site visit to Schoolhouse/minister in which he observed that the pond had a sandy, gravelly bottom, the lily pads were only in areas with a depth of less than 2.5 feet and there was heavy woody vegetation on the banks up to the water’s edge except in the area opposite the outfall pipe from Rte. 6 and in the northern area where there was tall grass. Harris also indicated there was a need to deal with the runoff from Park Street into Schoolhouse which Town staff had told him was owned by the Town. Crowley noted that any such work would need to be based on a plan from an entity such as AQT to secure a permit from ConsCom and funding from the Community Preservation Committee. Harris suggested looking at whether something could be done between the outfall pipe from Rte. 6 and the edge of the pond to protect against extreme flows. From his observations Harris believes the outfall pipe is on private property.

The committee reviewed Harris’s proposed reorganization of the committee website and suggested some changes. It was agreed to defer inclusion of Harris’s list of documents on the website until further work could be done on the list.

Harris reported that it appeared that decommissioning of the Tri-Town Treatment would proceed at the end of December 2016.

The committee then turned to consideration of the Minutes for the September and October meetings. Harris had a spelling correction for the October meeting and Guzowski asked that the discussion of his statement with respect to the proposed Affordable Housing Development (AHD) be clarified and a change was made.

Lewis noted that Sandy Bayne had commented that the proposed Septic system for the AHD would not remove phosphorus. It was noted that septic systems generally did not remove phosphorus but that the developers had made some changes which they claimed would reduce the amount of phosphorus going into the ground water. He then asked how the proposed development squared with the on bedroom per quarter acre rule and it was explained that the development was in a special district which had different rules as to density. Harris noted an analogous special system at Brackett’s Landing.

Guzowski **MOVED** the acceptance of the September Minutes, Sisterson seconded and all members agreed to their acceptance.

Lewis **MOVED** the acceptance of the October Minutes as modified, Guzowski seconded and the Minutes were accepted with Sisterson abstaining because of the absence from the October meeting.

Guzowski **MOVED** to adjourn, Sisterson seconded and the committee adjourned.

Documents distributed:

Agenda

First page of proposed Committee web Page Revision dated Sep 23, 2015

Submitted by committee clerk

Adele Blong