inutes of the Eastham Water Management Committee Meeting of October 20, 2015

Charles Harris convened the meeting in the Earle Mountain Room of Town Hall. Present also were members Blong, Duarte, Guzowski and Lewis, Health Agent Crowley and Town residents Russ French, Bud Mirkin and Pat O’Connell

Documents distributed prior to the meeting and during the meeting are listed at the end of these minutes.

The committee turned to the draft letter to Sharon Shipley, President of the Friends of Minister/Schoolhouse Pond. There was general agreement that the letter expressed the committee’s response to the Friends request that it recommend remedial treatments for the pond and accordingly should be sent. Blong asked how steps could be taken to move forward on a plant survey and to contact Aquatic Control Technologies (AQT). Harris reported that he had sought information from AQT and had been advised that all the information was on their website. Crowley suggested that the committee could rely on the Town to move forward on these steps, especially as the committee had no budget.

She reported that she and Shana Brogan, the Natural Resource Officer, had met with Sharon Shipley to brainstorm about how to prevent further pollution and block runoff. They discussed possible improvements in Best Management Practices and the need to establish by laboratory testing that Rte. 6 runoff was entering the pond. The Friends agreed to try to collect runoff during rainstorms to submit for such testing. Crowley was focusing on identifying strategies that the Conservation Commission would find acceptable. She also had requested a site inspection from AQT that would cover, among other things, what techniques they had used for similar problems elsewhere and what, if any, obstacles they saw to the work, for example, endangered species. Costs associated with these efforts were being met out of money that was available for pond remediation,

Crowley also reported that it appeared that funding to cure the runoff from Rte. 6 into Salt Pond would come through in 2018. With respect to development of the Town’s 208 plan for managing wastewater flow into Town Cove and Salt Pond, the Town’s consultants had submitted two draft technical memoranda for review by Town staff. Also the Town has been awarded a grant from the State’s Department of Environmental Protection to help pay for the consultants’ work but has not yet received the funds.

On the landfill front, the extent of the plume has not been determined with certainty. And Crowley is considering holding a workshop with Laurel Schrader of Silent Spring to talk about the Town’s situation with 1,4 Dioxane and the work Schrader is doing on the matter.

The committee was advised that the Board of Selectmen would be participating in a joint meeting on October 28th with the Orleans and Brewster Boards to discuss the future of the Tri-Town Septage Treatment Plant.

In response to a question Crowley advised that she had not yet received the information she was seeking from the State about the efficacy of the septic treatment system at the Seashore Visitors Center. She suggested that there was a bigger picture, getting the seashore's support for a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency

Blong **MOVED** that the committee send the letter to Shipley as drafted, Lewis seconded and the motion passed with all members voting aye. Harris was unsure of his authority to send the letter without Town approval and decided to ask the Town Administrator for approval. Crowley offered to provide the committee with a mailing list of pond abutters and to have the letters mailed if it was going to be sent.

Harris then invited town residents Merkin and O’Connell to address the committee about their request that construction of Phase 1 of the Town’s Municipal Water System (MWS) be modified as necessary to provide public water for distressed properties on Bayside Drive and Cedar Lane. They reported that a property on Cedar Lane where a resident was very ill had a high level of 1,4 Dioxane and that many properties on Bayside Drive had high nitrate levels including one that had a level of 19. They noted that the nitrate levels in the area had been going up progressively. It was also noted that some of the properties had high sodium levels in their water raising additional health problems.

They suggested that all areas with properties whose well water posed health problems should be considered distressed properties and should be given priority for coverage by the MWS. The committee noted that the construction of the backbone in Phase 1 was designed to allow for moving quickly to provide water to areas with emergent problems. A question was raised about how the nitrate results over the years for the homes in question could be tracked. It was suggested that the data should be available from the Barnstable County Health Department which did the testing and reported the results to property owners.

Harris reported with respect to to the Tri-Town Septage Treatment Plant that Orleans has contracted for a financial analysis to determine what action related to the plant would best serve the Town’s interests. Two alternatives were being looked at, complete demolition after expiration of the permit in December 2016 or partial demolition with retention of part of the plant as a new plant is built.

The committee turned to consideration of Harris’s proposal for revision of the organization and contents of the document folders on the committee’s page on the Town website. Blong suggested certain changes.

Guzowski mentioned the proposed Affordable Housing Project at the T-Time site and said that by his calculations based on experience at the Four Points Sheraton the estimate of 25,000 gallons of wastewater per day might be too low. He also noted that the septic system would be a half mile from a wellhead.

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

Documents distributed:

Agenda

Town of Eastham Water Management Committee Web Page Revision Sept. 26, 2015

Memo from Pat O’Connell requesting expansion of Phase 1 of the MWS to cover “distressed properties”

Documents distributed prior to the meeting:

Proposed letter to Sharon Shipley from Charles Harris Oct.7, 2015

Blong’s Notes on the Pond Plan’s recommendations for Mister/Schoolhouse (sic) Oct.7, 2015

Submitted by committee clerk

Adele Blong