

Minutes For 04/08/2020:

Approved minutes from 3/4/2020;

Steve was going to reach out to the municipal association to see what they had done or any other issues. Didn't have material on hand to discuss past water well issues from other towns.

Lindsay: Pelham had some water issues in the past. Hampstead had specific water problems related to municipal well installation that led to private wells going dry on Main Street. Response was to decrease usage of municipal well to minimize effect on nearby wells. Derry also had some issues-no details.

Lindsay had spoken with Abigail Reville (Brookline health department) regarding water surveys that would potentially be sent out to residents on Russell Hill and ended up not being sent out. Abigail Fopiano is the water program manager for NHDES. Abigail had sent note that listed Hampstead has a water resource committee, Windham has well construction requirements. A few other towns established well-head / ground water protection areas. Group agreed that this wasn't related directly to wells going dry. Rob to take on Pelham and confirm what they did. Jay to take a look at Windham.

Discussion of potential water survey of Brookline residents to see if there are residents that have issues with wells going dry. Do we want to send it to everyone in town? Possible to do so but it appeared lofty to get everyone to participate. Bob Thompson has done some town-wide surveys for the schools with success. Survey should be focus on wells going dry outside of obvious droughts. Need to narrow down scope of survey as some wells are already low yielding. Potential questions of survey:

- Outside of seasonal droughts, have you experienced substantial loss in water well yield (ie, loss of pressure or flow from faucets or no water over a prolonged period)?
- Do you have a well yield less than 4 GPM as listed on the Well Completion Report?
- Has there been a residential development within a half mile radius of your home?

NHDES may be able to do a query for us to tell us the yield of all wells in Brookline. Group can then analyze data to see if there are areas with greater well yields than others. Group will ask Tad if someone on planning board can see if they can help with query. Jay will check with NHDES and see if it's for them to provide data for us.

Group did a review of the posting for members to the Brookline water well committee. This posting had the following questions that were proposed be answered in a September 2020 meeting and report. Questions were:

- 1. Are additional homes causing water issues?**
- 2. Should developers be required to submit a hydrogeologic study to show how development will impact nearby homes?**
- 3. Should restrictions be placed on how close homes should be to each other?**
- 4. Should there be restrictions on lawn/outdoor watering, etc.?**
- 5. Are some towns more likely to develop water supply issues than others?**

First two questions are a must. Question 3 is TBD. Question 4 should be struck for various reasons. Question 5 is important. Group discussed that need to determine if we have a regional, widespread water well issue , or is it specific to isolated areas within the town. This could be merged into question 5.

Discussed option of only sending survey to those specific areas where developments have occurred within the past seven years. Group to proposed next month once survey questions on finalized. Jay is going to get development issue from Valerie.