

Moose Hill Water Commission Meeting Minutes

Minutes of November 15, 2016

Members present: Kurt Parliment, Chair; Harry Brooks

In Attendance: Kevin Mizikar, Town Administrator; Michelle Buck, Town Planner, and Michael Knox, Superintendent, CVRWD

Meeting called to order at 5:30PM

Discussion/review on the joint meeting held with the Town Water Districts, Town Administrator, State Senator Michael Moore, Representative Kate Campanale and two representatives from DEP.

Leicester Water District was not favorable getting involved with the development of the Moose Hill Reservoir and the Cherry Valley Rochdale Water District was favorable towards the development of the Reservoir.

The Leicester Water District was currently putting in a new filtration system and not interested putting in a larger centralized plant, allowing for all the surface water supplies the opportunity to tie in. The representative to Leicester Water noted they would charge CVWD double the rates if they were to supply CVWD with water, then what Worcester was charging them.

Past discussion with the Leicester Water District always noted they had water concerns and had multiple wells not being used. The Commission felt that raised a few questions, such as; what Leicester Water has as an active water source, because Paxton was a limited source of the flow; and what wells were active and what additional wells could be brought on line.

The Commission noted that it was stated in the 2003 Contract Agreement with Leicester Water that yearly update meetings were required. To date Leicester Water District has never held an update meeting with the Moose Hill Commission.

Mr. Knox, CVRWD Superintendent explained over the years there had been several attempts to get things moving with Moose Hill, but the attempts always fell apart.

The last initiative was when the RFP was developed to update the Feasibility Report in 2008. At that time, the idea was to select an engineering firm, other than the one that had done the work over the years, in an attempt to have a fresh set of eyes review the project. Unfortunately, things didn't work out that way, the same firm was rehired, and nothing moved forward.

Mr. Mizikar, Town Administrator explained after he reviewed the 2003 Contract Agreement, he asked the Board of Selectmen to consider taking the next step towards the development of

Moose Hill and determine the feasibility of the reservoir and have a cost benefit analysis completed.

It would include everything that was previously done and what was laid out in the 2008 DEP letter, "New Source Approval Process", to determine whether that body of water would again be able to be designated as a drinking water source.

The report will update the June 2, 2008 Feasibility Report and reaffirm the numbers to determine what further steps need to be taken, given all the changes in the last 8 years.

There are 2 sources of funding available. The remaining money left over from the 2008 Feasibility Study, approved at the May 2008 ATM and the remaining money from the Water Infrastructure Study, approved at the May 2015 ATM.

Mr. Mizikar asked if the Moose Hill Commissioners would consider supporting the use of that left over money to pursue a cost benefit analysis. The Town needs to decide whether or not Moose Hill could be used as a drinking water source.

The goal of the analysis would allow the Town to get to a point where the Water Districts could be approached as customers and understand what the minimum cost would be.

As well as, determining whether Moose Hill would be a feasible water source and something the Town could afford to permit, treat and sell to the rate payers within the market range currently in place. Bottom line, will Moose Hill Reservoir move forward or will it be dissolved.

Mr. Parliment explained from previous meetings, developing the reservoir to today's standards would be cost prohibitive. He questioned whether one filtration system could be built to include all the water districts, because ratepayers would end up paying double the cost by putting in 3 new systems instead of just one.

Mr. Mizikar said he had contacted the Town Administrator from the Town of Spencer asking for all the information they had on file regarding Shaw Pond Watershed.

Mr. Parliment questioned when the water from Moose Hill starts flowing through the pipes along Route 9 west, would ownership of the water pipes then become Moose Hill's, as stated in the contract agreement.

Mr. Mizikar understood the water would be metered at both ends and any water that goes out before the Route 56/Route 9 Intersection would be charged to Leicester Water and any water beyond that would be charged to the customer base.

Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Parliment asked for a motion in support of the Town Administrator using leftover funds to update 2008 Feasibility Report and analysis what was laid out in the 2008 New Source Approval Process letter from DEP.

MOTION: Mr. Brooks moved that the Moose Hill Water Commission support the Town Administrator in using leftover funds approved from the 2008 ATM & 2015 ATM to determine whether Moose Hill Reservoir is a viable drinking water supply for the Town of Leicester.

SECONDED: Mr. Parliment – Discussion: None – VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Knox suggested using the RFP developed in 2008, because it should still be applicable and addresses many of the points listed in the 2008 DEP letter.

He also noted, in support of Moose Hill Commissioners, the letter written by Jim Fuller, DEP Director in 1987, referenced Moose Hill Reservoir being certified as a drinking water supply. There has always been this written communication of importance implied from MassDEP that Moose Hill is a viable source as a public drinking water supply.

Mr. Brooks suggested keeping an open communication with the Town Water Districts so everyone can be on the same page moving forward.

All agreed.

Approval of Minutes

9/27/2016

MOTION: Mr. Brooks moved to approve the minutes of September 27, 2016

SECONDED: Mr. Parliment – Discussion: None – VOTE: All in Favor

All agreed for the Board Secretary to contact LWD and request Moose Hill to be put on their 12/8/2016 meeting agenda in order to give them an update on tonight's meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Brooks moved to adjourn

SECONDED: Mr. Parliment – Discussion: None – VOTE: All in Favor

Meeting adjourned at 6:05PM

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Knox

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