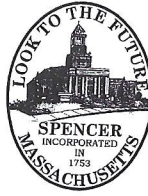


**TOWN OF SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS  
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March 23, 2021

Mr. Michael J. Shivick, Chair  
Moose Hill Water Commission  
3 Washburn Square  
Leicester, MA 01524

**RE: Moose Hill Reservoir and Shaw Pond**

Dear Chairman Shivick,

The Spencer Board of Water Commissioners (SWC) met on March 3, 2021 and at that time reviewed and discussed your letter dated January 27, 2021. The following responses correspond to the questions raised in the aforementioned letter.

**Sugden Reservoir / Moose Hill Reservoir**

**Question:** According to the Moose Hill Water Commission, based upon a 2011 Moose Hill Commission written report, an issue was raised regarding impacts to the Sugden Reservoir because of the lack of use of the Moose Hill Reservoir.

**Response:** The Commissioners felt that they need to review a copy of the 2011 written report in order to better understand the scope and extent of the issues raised. Knowing the context of the matter may provide some insight into the issue and allow the Commissioners to better respond to your question. If you could forward a copy of the report to my attention, I will make certain the Commissioners have it before their next meeting.

**Shaw Pond**

**Question:** What license or other grant of rights to the Town of Spencer regarding Shaw Pond?

**Response:** The Town of Spencer owns Shaw Pond in its entirety, which is registered as Public Water Supply (PWS) Source ID # 2280000-01S with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It is also the Spencer Water Commissions understanding that the Shaw Pond watershed, and water rights in their entirety, are also owned by the Spencer Water Department as the Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) PWS Watershed for our public water supply rights at Shaw Pond. All of Shaw Pond and its entire watershed are listed as PWS Source ID # 2280000-01S, which is the Town of Spencer's registered Emergency PWS. The PWS was in regular use until 1998 until it became regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, which required pre-treatment of surface water supplies. As a result, the Spencer Water Department has transitioned to groundwater wells as our currently active PWS source and maintains the rights to using Shaw Pond as needed.

**Leicester – Spencer Partnership**

**Question:** Is there any need for additional water supply within the Town of Spencer?

**Response:** The Town of Spencer does not have immediate water supply needs, but we do like to keep our options open. As such we are always willing to discuss and explore mutually beneficial scenarios.

**One Centralized Water Commission**

**Question:** Having one water (or water/sewer) district within a Town, as I am sure you know, may have pros and cons. Obviously a single larger district may have more resources readily available and can consolidate manpower and equipment. This may result in an overall savings to the users. Conversely, if a district has difficulties such as the 350% markup from other sources, the remaining districts (users) are not burdened with that expense. However, speaking in generalities probably will not answer specific questions or issues faced by Leicester with regard to their water supply issues.

**Response:** We only know the perspective of a single source PWS for the community we serve. We can imagine the difficulties of having multiple districts, different rates, treatments, staff, etc. for multiple districts and their customers, respectively. It is recommended that the Leicester Districts explore their pros and cons jointly, much like you have reached out the Spencer Water Commission, to see if there is an interest. Assuming there is, whether partially or in whole, it seems like it would be a good conversation to have for your users.

I hope this answers some of your questions. We look forward to continuing our discussion on Moose Hill Reservoir after we receive the 2011 Report. If you have any other questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,  
Utilities & Facilities Department

  
William J. Cundiff, P.E.  
Superintendent