

Moose Hill Water Commission
Meeting Minutes

Minutes of July 29, 2013

Members present: Kurt Parliment, Harry Brooks, Carl Wicklund

In Attendance: Michael Knox, Greg Buteau

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM

Re-Organization of the Board

MOTION: Harry Brooks moved to nominate Kurt Parliment as Chairman.

SECONDED: Carl Wicklund – Discussion: None

VOTE: All in Favor

New Business

- Water Restrictions

Mr. Parliment said that he asked Mr. Knox to this meeting to help explain the State's recent water restrictions with the City of Worcester and with surface water supplies in general. He wanted to know if the recent restriction would the Moose Hill Reservoir somehow.

He noted the Sudgen Reservoir that sits adjacent to Moose Hill, also not being a public water supply but being used for recreation and a few years back, Sudgen was experiencing low water because of a draught. Sudgen caretakers were looking into whether Moose Hill could release water into the Sudgen to raise their level.

Mr. Parliment asked Mr. Knox whether the recent water restriction could affect the Moose Hill Reservoir, for example, if the Sugden Pond wanted or needed the water.

Mr. Knox said that it was not a concern to Moose Hill right now, but will be when it becomes a certified public drinking water supply. It will need that certification first before having to meet DEP and State Restrictions and Regulations and then all the dos and don'ts get spelt out.

DEP will monitor the water intake and regulate the water out-put; it is called the "Sustainable Water Initiative".

For example, the water is regulated from the river basin and DEP determines that draw by the demand. Such as; water overuse, change in population, change in impervious areas, change in water table and also to storm damaged areas, where water is not readily available.

When going through the permitting process and also looking to increase water intake, it will have conditions, and DEP tries to designate and key the natural flow of water. They want to take away the storage capacity of surface water suppliers, who currently have to try to manage and navigate through the DEP control of water withdrawals.

The water rates end up becoming affected. Revenue is based on water rates; lower the water consumption, the higher the rates.

Mr. Knox continued. With Moose Hill, those issues would be addressed through the approval process.

Water Management will control residential growth and business growth.

Mr. Parliment said he had read the water restriction article in the paper and wanted to know where Moose Hill stood with that.

He asked Mr. Knox how often permits for a surface water source gets renewed.

Mr. Knox said usually every 5 years, but the State can renew at any time.

Mr. Brooks asked which agency inspected Moose Hill. Mr. Parliment said DCR use to do yearly inspections of the Dam, but he wasn't sure when the last one was done because a bill has not been received for several years.

Mr. Buteau helped explain the State's inspection process and advised for the Commissioners to review the Town's contract from the State and that is where it should spell out both parties responsibilities.

Mr. Brooks asked for the Secretary to try and find out the contact information for the DCR representative and the date the last inspection was done.

Mr. Brooks agreed that once he receives the contact information, he will try to get to talk to someone.

MOTION: Mr. Wicklund moved for each Commissioner to be sent an electronic copy of the State Contracts and Agreements pertaining to the Maintenance of the Reservoir Dam; DEP's New Source Approval Letter; the last Feasibility Study done on the reservoir; the approved State Legislation regarding the Land Transfer and the 1987 DEP Certification letter on Moose Hill.

SECONDED: Mr. Brooks – Discussion: None

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Parliment informed the Board that he spoke to the Town Moderator regarding getting an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and putting the question out to the Town; "Do we want Moose Hill Reservoir as a water source or do we let it go as a recreation source?"

This project has been going nowhere and it can't continue much longer by just one town.

Everyone who may have an interest, needs to sit down and discuss the possibilities; such as the Towns of, Paxton, Spencer, possibly Oxford, and Charlton, also both the Town's water districts.

This project has been going on far too long and the Commissioners feel they have taken it as far as it can be taken at this point. This project needs a lot of financial backing and support. All this information needs to be found out before moving any further. Right now, the Commissioners are just spinning their wheels and getting nowhere.

The decision needs to be made; does the Moose Hill Reservoir become a water supply or a park.

It is well known that on a full build out and the demand along Route 9 will need Moose Hill. If the Commissioners get something on warrant, they will need to put together a salesman's pitch; i.e. what we got, what we need, who to serve, what surrounding towns to help. All that information will be needed and then it can be presented to the Town with knowledge and facts; *noted: an engineer is going to be needed to help/show full build-out potential.*

If the Town does decide to get going with this, the question remains, will both districts help build it, as well as the surrounding towns.

Mr. Knox said a lot of work is needed and a lot of answers need to be answered before anyone can commit. Another issue that will need an answer is the Interbasin Transfer. What will the State allow? The Build out – the infrastructure; a lot of answers are needed and they won't be found until the DEP process has been completed.

The Commissioners will need to come up with basic money in order to go through the process; *noted: an engineer is going to be needed to determine expenses/available funding.*

All agreed that the main question to bring to the Town is; "What is the Town's goal?"

Approval of Minutes

- 3/11/2013

MOTION: Mr. Brooks – moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2013

SECONDED: Mr. Parliment – Discussion: None

VOTE: All in Favor

Budget/Financial Reports

- Budget Reports

January thru April 2013 received/reviewed.

After a brief discussion, the next meeting will be scheduled for Monday, August 26th at 6PM
Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Knox

Barbara Knox