

## *Sewer and Water Minutes*

*April 4, 2017*

*Present: Don Schneyer, Peter Socha, Tom Schuler, Mike Buffoni, Tony Campetti, Jennifer Carmichael, Terry Flynn, Gary Johnson, Anita Schwarner, Fred Rutberg, Brent White, Jake Chase, Charles Kenny*

Don asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes; Peter motioned to accept the March minutes and Tom seconded all were in favor.

Mike addressed the Averic Road Closure explaining there would be about 1200 feet over the causeway where the Town owns both sides of the road that would be closed. There would be gates about 350 feet from the water towards Route 183 end and 800 to 900 feet towards the Route 102 end where the Town owns both sides of the road. There would be no access by vehicle or by foot. Don has spoken to several concerned people and explained the job of the Commissioners is to protect Echo Lake, the Stockbridge Bowl is not a viable back up; the State will not let the town use it. At the tank, there is the installed line which is to get water to Lee. Connecting to Lee might be an option though their rates are much higher than ours. Mike felt our rates would practically triple to recover the costs for the Town. The water usage would be upwards of \$500,000 that we would have to pay to Lee. Last year a boat was put into the reservoir the biggest worry was where the boat had been. Infestation of zebra mussels is a huge concern. Signs have been torn down continuously. The Police Chief told Don it was a public safety issue and agreed closing the road is in the best interests of the public. DEP said we are about the only reservoir in the State with this problem. To be approved now to have the lake as a water supply the DEP would never allow the road to be opened. Especially in the summer there is a lot of traffic on that road. In the news, there have been water issues in several states. Balancing the issues of clean safe water for the residents against someone's right to use the road, the safety of the water outweighs the down side. People that live on Averic Road will still have access to their property they just will not be able to drive through. At some point there will be a formal public hearing with the Select Board. Fred Rutberg suggested a barrier with a camera limiting the height of the vehicles that could travel along the road and or possibly a fence could go up to prevent things being thrown into the lake. Better signage at the beginning of the road. Mike explained gates would allow the in lake maintenance to be done. Gary Johnson asked about pedestrians, he mentioned other reservoirs, all much larger than Echo Lake. He suggested a good strong fence extending back to the logging road and on the cause way side better guardrails. He also felt much better signs were needed to eliminate large trucks. If needed in an emergency the road would need to be available. He suggested a traffic survey be done on the road. Mike felt in an emergency all necessary people would have keys to the gate. Quabbin

Reservoir has 180 miles of shoreline; an enormous amount of contaminant would have to go into the lake to have a problem because of the dilution factor as there is an abundance of water. 39 acres is all Stockbridge has for water. We do have an interconnection with Lee but it is for a limited supply and time. Terry Flynn had concerns regarding the emergency vehicles access to parts of Town by Averic Road. Mike mentioned the distance from Averic Road (183 side) up Route 102 to the Garden Center to the Averic Road (102 side) was 2 miles and the distance along Averic Road was 1.4 miles but time wise going up to 102 to Berkshire Botanical and around to the 102 side of Averic road took a minute less than going from one end to the other on Averic Road. Gary spoke with Lenny from Highway and was told if the road was reduced we would lose \$5,000 off our Chapter 90 funds each year.

Jake Chase, the stewardship manager representing Naumkeag discussed their utility bills and questioned the sewer cost. The water usage is probably correct, they do use a large amount of water that goes into the gardens not into the sewer. Suggestions of tapping into the two new services one for irrigation at the red barn and one for the garden shed greenhouse to eliminate the sewer charge. Adding another irrigation line or extending the ones already installed. Possibly using the deep well up by the road that is used for the cistern of the Chinese garden, the fountains and some of the watering and the pressure is low. Setting up a pump system to increase water usage and pressure was mentioned do some engineering work was also brought up. We cannot really deviate from the policy the Town has or make exceptions.

Brent White from White Engineering regarding the approval of the engineering plans from March and the question of an appropriate sewer connection fee that should be assessed for Chesterwood. He had done some research in regards to title 5 and sewer usage and looking at water usage, came up with \$3,600 to \$4,000 would be used. Since at this time we have no established commercial rate structure we would charge the 5-bedroom rate. Tony spoke with an engineer doing the pump station design and will do the rate study, Tony was told he could only have one rate structure that would parallel both residential and commercial. Peter, Don and Tom thanked Brent White for the hard work put into all his research and a great reference document. The vote was to use the 5-bedroom rate fee for the museum and the single family would go by number of bedrooms. Tank update: Mike spoke with Wilkinson's and they expect to be finishing up at the tanks by the end of the month. There is only about 300 feet of pipe to put in and then it will be pressure tested.

35-37 Interlaken LLC: If and when a plan for hook up comes to the Commissioners they expect to hire someone to look over and interpret all plans presented at the expense of the applicant as it is standard practice. Tom has suggested to the design team and their attorney that they come in on an informal basis and discuss what they have in mind as there are a lot of unknowns.

Bear trapping plan: Division of Fisheries and Wildlife contacted Mike to setup cameras and eventually traps; one below the water tanks and one at the logging header off Averic Road. For now, they have popcorn popped in bacon grease to attract the bears; when they notice the bears

coming regularly they will put up the traps. They want to radio collar females and track them all summer. Mike and Mark were taking feeder-stream samples and noticed tracks and followed them to Train Hill Road. Mike explained the property is posted and DFW have bait and eventually traps to trap bears.

May Town issues: there was nothing new

Brent before leaving asked about White Pines and Tony said to include Camp Mahkeenac also being interested in sewer but said there was nothing on the table at this time. With Elm Court, White Pines and Wheatley all their properties connect and they are all interested in a sewer connection. The Commissioners would like to start informal discussions with them.

The Park Street Pump Station cost has risen though no written estimates yet but is expected to be \$500,000 to \$600,000. It was suggested to Tony to do a SFR or USRDA loan and pay it back over 30 years instead of trying to save up the money. The SRF loan for the sewer project will be finished with payments in 8 years. There was more discussion and ideas regarding the Park Street Pump Station and the metal tank in the ground there.

Tom asked to review the road closure, the Commissioners need to vote and decide which way to go and give their recommendation to the Select Board. Tom would like to go along with what Mike has suggested, and have cameras and maybe some sort of compromise with pedestrians. Don asked Mike to find out from the State if something goes into the lake what the responsibility of the Commissioners is and what does the State require. Mike has contacted several companies that deal with water contamination. Don does not want to close the road and asked about a very good fence or wall being put up. Tom asked, what is the detriment to people not being able to drive through from one end to the other end of Averic Road and what is the benefit. Mike will talk to the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Chris Marsden, Emergency Management.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Carmichael, Secretary