



MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2020
REHOBOTH WATER COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Rehoboth Water Commission was held remotely via Zoom and was called to order at 7:03p.m.

ATTENDEES

Members: Joseph Nunes, Patricia Vadnais, Thomas Nicholson and Katie Eyer

MINUTES

Motion: Tish Vadnais made a motion to approve the minutes of both January 9, 2020 and February 11, 2020

Motion 2nd: Joseph Nunes

A roll call vote had unanimous approval.

2020 TOWN MEETING

Deb Arruda has requested a letter from the Water Commission for the town meeting. Tish Vadnais has written a letter to submit saying that the Water Commission chooses not to present a summary for reasons of time and safety.

Motion: Tish Vadnais made a motion to approve the letter.

Motion 2nd: Tom Nicholson

A roll call vote had unanimous approval.

BYLAWS

According to Ted Ballard, the Water District needs both a treasurer and a clerk. Ted has always been the treasurer and likely still is.

Motion: Tish Vadnais made a motion to nominate Katie Eyer Water District clerk and Ted Ballard treasurer.
Motion 2nd: Tom Nicholson

A roll call vote had unanimous approval.

Additionally, do the bylaws indicate whether the removal of the Shad Factory Dam is the responsibility of the Water Commission? The Water Commission could meet with the Board of Selectmen and possibly consult legal counsel.

The DEP has begun to do environmental studies.

Tom Nicholson – as far as the responsibility of the Water Commission goes, the Shad Factory Pond isn't a feasible water supply.

Joe Nunes asks Tom Nicholson if the water is brackish, and if the dam is removed, will the saltwater go further upstream? He answers that the DEP will explore this in one of their studies.

Joe Nunes- will look at the bylaws again to see where our responsibilities lie.

Tom Nicholson – suggests that we ask the Selectmen to name the Water Commission as lead as the issue moves forward in order to keep an eye on what is happening.

Joe Nunes – will try to meet with Deb Arruda to see if she can put the Water Commission on the contact list to receive information about the dam.

Motion: Tish Vadnais made a motion to make Joe Nunes point man on issues involving the Shad Factory Dam.
Motion 2nd: Tom Nicholson

A roll call vote had unanimous approval.

Joe Nunes – referring to the bylaws, section 10 – if there is a gas spill into the water supply, is the Water Commission involved?

Tom Nicholson – The DEP has the power to fine (an administrative penalty). The town could fine if they pass the appropriate bylaw.

OTHER BUSINESS

Water Supply signs – they were an Eagle Scout project

The Water Commission suggests adding R.F.D. to the signs to clarify that the water supplies are for fire department use.

Tish Vadnais – spoke to Fire Chief Barresi, who said that the signs were expensive. They were too costly to make over. The best solution would be to make separate R.F.D. signs and add them to the post. Someone could speak to Bill Dalpe Jr. to see if it could be done as another project.

Motion: Joe Nunes made the motion that Tish Vadnais should speak to Bill Dalpe Jr., Chief Barresi, and the highway commissioner.

Motion 2nd: Katie Eyer

A roll call vote had unanimous approval.

Additional business – the Water Commission will hold meetings the first Friday of the month if needed, so Deb Arruda can reserve the time slot for Zoom in case there is a meeting.

The meeting schedule is tentatively for alternate months beginning on December 4, 2020. Jim Muri will be invited to sit in.

Joe Nunes will let Deb Arruda know the schedule.

ACTION ITEMS

Joe Nunes will look at the bylaws again to see where the Water Commission’s responsibilities lie.

Tish Vadnais will speak to Bill Dalpe Jr., Chief Barresi, and the highway commissioner about adding R.F.D. to the Water Supply signs.

Joe Nunes will let Deb Arruda know the meeting schedule and will see if she can put the Water Commission on the contact list to receive information about the Shad Factory dam.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion made by Tish Vadnais to adjourn at 8:07p.m.

Motion 2nd: Tom Nicholson

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Eyer
Rehoboth Water Commissioner
Clerk