

Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2017

Minutes of the meeting held by the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee on Thursday June 1, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Foxborough Public Safety Building, 8 Chestnut Street, Foxborough, MA 02035.

Members Present: Wayne P. Southworth, Easton; Jan Fowler, Easton;
John Fresh, Jr., Easton; Robert Boette, Foxborough;
Joan Sozio, Foxborough; Robert Worthley, Foxborough;
Kurt Gaffney, Mansfield; Aaron Roth, Mansfield;
Linda Kollett, Norton; Bernie Marshall, Norton;
Frances Shirley, Norton; Dave Masciarelli, Sharon

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Wayne Southworth.

II. Review Minutes of April 6, 2017

Bob Boette motioned to accept the minutes of April 6, 2017 as amended. Dave Masciarelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Election of Officers

Bob Worthley nominated Wayne Southworth as Chairman of the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee. Bob Boette seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Boette nominated Bernie Marshall as Vice-Chairman of the CRAAC. Bernie Marshall nominated Bob Boette as Vice-Chairman of the CRAAC. Linda Kollett seconded the nomination of Bob Boette as Vice-Chairman. Frances Shirley seconded the nomination of Bernie Marshall as Vice-Chairman. With both nominations on the table, Bernie Marshall said that he would first like to become more familiar with the Committee, as he was very recently appointed. The nomination of Bernie Marshall was respectfully withdrawn. The remaining motion to select Bob Boette as Vice-Chairman passed unanimously.

Wayne Southworth nominated Jan Fowler as CRAAC Secretary. Bob Boette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Update of Foxborough Water Supply – Robert Worthley, Foxborough Superintendent

Bob Worthley presented a synopsis of Foxborough's water supply during the recent drought. He explained that an emergency declaration was enacted last summer. In Foxborough's Water Management Act Permit, if the Town's per capita per day exceeds 65 gallons, which it did last year, and a drought is declared, an immediate ban on non-essential water use must be enacted. He instantly became the most disliked man in Foxborough, as charity car washes were an early casualty of the ban.

The Town's new Witch Pond wells and treatment plant are located in the Ten Mile River basin. As part of the Interbasin Transfer Permit, thresholds were set, that, if reached, would require a shutdown of Wells #14 and #15. Additionally, Attleboro holds the rights to the dams that release water into Lake Mirimichi. When Attleboro experienced a need for water, it opened the dams,

almost instantaneously lowering the levels at Witch Pond to the threshold trigger points. Additionally, the new wells planned for the Chestnut Street Pumping Station required a prolonged pumping test, requiring the station to go offline. This took place during September and part of October, in the middle of the drought. A construction project at Station Two also required some shutdown time. Work was also being done on the piping on Main Street. With so much going on at the same time as the drought, Foxborough wanted to be prepared to start the Emergency Declaration Process that would allow it to use Wells #14 and #15, should the need arise. Two letters describing the confluence of events that could lead to such a declaration were sent to Duane LeVangie of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. On September 20, 2016, approval was given, but with that approval, all conditions became effective immediately, even though the Town had not yet needed to use Wells #14 and #15. These conditions included a 24-hour ban on non-essential watering, as well as limiting non-essential use from private wells. Station One was back on-line October 20, 2016, but the restrictions had to remain in place due to the drought level. Despite this chain of events, Foxborough was, fortunately, still able to pump enough water during the drought.

V. Review Email Master List

The email master list was passed around for review. Members were asked to add any names that they felt should be on the list, and to cross off any names that should no longer be on the list. The Committee hopes to add more people.

VI. CRAAC Presentation to Mansfield Board of Selectmen – May 10, 2017

Aaron Roth and Kurt Gaffney invited Wayne Southworth to attend the Mansfield BOS Meeting. The meeting was very positive and the BOS was appreciative of all that the CRAAC has done. Wayne's presentation was well-received.

VII. Open Space Map and Greenbelt Update

Flyers were passed out that could be placed in Town Halls of the member communities.

Norton voted to rezone the old Houghton Farm land to Village Commercial. Both Bernie Marshall and Jenn Carlino intend to be involved with the planning process. They are aware that the land is in an ACEC.

Aaron Roth asked if the CRAAC has a relationship with the Mansfield Natural Resources Trust. Wayne said that they have in the past, but he would certainly be willing to reach out to them again.

VIII. Logo Redesign – John Shannon

This agenda item will be kept open until John Shannon returns from overseas.

IX. Recap 2017 30th Anniversary Celebration

The event was held at the Chateau in Norton and went very well. A plaque that was given to the Committee from Yvette DePeiza was shown to Committee members. Wayne thanked all those that attended, and thanked the Plymouth County Water Works Association for its donation.

X. Membership Discussion

A card was distributed for members to sign to thank Jenn Carlino for her many years of service.

Currently, the only vacancy is in Sharon.

XI. Discussion Regarding Cloud/Drop Box/Website

The ultimate goal is to have a place to put information for the CRAAC and to be more visible. The CRAAC previously had a website that was paid for by Easton.

XII. Discuss Committee Goals

Education and access to information are major goals for the Committee. Jan Fowler said that the Bay Circuit Trail has a flip file outdoor information cabinet. Something like this might be useful for the Committee to use at various events.

Members were asked to start thinking of ideas for next year's Canoe River Awareness Day.

XIII. Next Meeting in Norton

The next meeting of the CRAAC will take place on August 3, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the Norton Selectmen's Meeting Room. Bernie Marshall will reserve the space.

XIV. Public Comment

A letter was prepared on behalf of the CRAAC to be included in a memory book that was presented to former member, John Grant, at the ceremony renaming a portion of Wheaton Farms as the John Grant Management Area.

There have been several ATVs going through land at Red Mill Road. The Environmental Police have shown up and have spoken to several people about this.

XV. Meeting Adjourned - W. Southworth accepted a motion from John Fresh to adjourn the meeting. Frances Shirley seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn its meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.