

HWRC Minutes - March 5, 2024

HWRC meeting at Hampstead Public Library at 6pm

Present in room: S. Spyvee, M. Bunker, R. Weimar, D. Rollins

Attending via zoom: S. Nolan, L. Anthony

Minutes taken by S. Nolan.

Mission Statement: To support the provision of safe, adequate, affordable and sustainable water sources for Hampstead and its residents

1. Call to Order

6:00 pm - Chairman S. Spyvee called the meeting to order. M. Bunker made a motion to allow L. Anthony and S. Nolan to participate in the meeting remotely. Second by R. Weimar.
Vote was unanimous.

2. Old Business

- a. **Hampstead Hospital update** - R. Weimar attended a meeting last month but there was no discussion of water or sewer issues. The discussion was focused on strategies for resident issues. The plan is for most residents to be there for 3 months or less but some may be there for years.
- b. **Rain Barrel Sale update** - D. Rollins reported that 21 barrels have been ordered thus far. He has been advertising the rain barrel opportunity using patch.com as well as many social media sites for Sandown, Danville, Windham and Salem which has resulted in a wider reach to the public this year. In addition to the HWRC facebook page, S. Nolan submitted the info to the Eagle Tribune, Derry News, Tri-Town Times, Nutfield News and the Union Leader.

3/10/24: Rain Barrel purchase window closes

3/23/24: Rain Barrel pick up East Coast Lumber - D. Rollins and his family will facilitate the pickup that day. Other HWRC members are welcome to come for a donut and photo op!

- c. **Water Testing Week April 8 - 13th - April 6th Kickoff presentation at HPL at 1:30 -**
S. Spyvee has scheduled the Water Testing Week Kickoff event. Amy Hudnor from DES will do a presentation providing residential well information. John Lyons from Granite State Analytical will explain how to take a water sample and answer questions. The kits will be available at Hampstead Town Hall where there will also be a cooler for water sample drop off. Tina Harrington will coordinate the effort at Town Hall. Granite State Analytical is providing 20% off every test they offer. The state recommended comprehensive water test plus uranium is normally \$185 but will be \$148 with the 20% discount. The 18 compound PFAS test that is usually \$275 will be \$220 with the 20% discount. Sample Kits may be picked up and dropped off at Hampstead Town Hall April 8 - 13th.

Publicity - S. Spyvee will develop a graphic to use for advertising Water Testing Week. She will check with John Lyons to find out if the offer will be limited to Hampstead residents. She will ask Tina Harrington to advertise the event as part of town events. S. Spyvee will use the email list from the survey HWRC did a couple of years ago to contact more residents. We will ask L. Warnock to announce the Water Testing Week at the March 11th Select Board meeting. S. Spyvee will contact Howie Steadman about advertising on the Town Hall sign. Advertising at the polls on March 12th was also suggested.

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- d. **HAWC update-** S. Spyvee reported that the current rate increase process is coming to a conclusion. The rates have been agreed upon. HAWC is trying to claim 3 months of lost revenue since some increases were delayed due to an objection that was raised.
- e. **Sandown/Chester development** - M. Bunker shared a map showing where the 43/44 units in Sandown will be built. They will have a community well. The 98 Chester units will need to be connected to HAWC since the developer was unable to find sufficient groundwater for wells. They do not have final Planning Board approval yet.
R. Weimar reported that Pennichuck will have to extend the Hampstead Rd pipeline in Derry to Depot Rd, and then connect with the HAWC network. This would potentially be paid for through the state Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. He reported that there is concern that the proposed system may not be big enough for adequate fire protection. The committee will continue to monitor the expansion of the HAWC network to ensure that the Hampstead water supply is not impacted.

3. New Business -

- a. **Communication outlets now that Carriage Towne News has stopped publication** - Possibilities include - Town Hall sign, patch.com, Facebook (including Atkinson Carriage Town News page), Eagle Tribune, Derry News, Union Leader, Nutfield News, and Tri-Town Times, committee Mailchimp mailing list.
- b. **Water supply to HPL** - The Hampstead Public Library currently uses a community well. The front building in the complex switched to HAWC a few years ago but the cost was considered too high for HPL at the time. The sprinkler system in HPL is serviced by a tank of water in the basement. There is currently discussion about making HPL an emergency headquarters for the town but there is no alternate power source or water at HPL if the power goes out. A standby power system would be needed to access water during a storm/power outage. Jim Lavacchia is looking into possible new grant funding options for HPL to connect to HAWC so it could be a viable emergency center location..
- c. **NH Legislative info** - L. Anthony informed the committee about an upcoming vote on a PFAS ban in the NH House. She also reported that the Biden administration has provided \$55 million to NH to improve drinking water and clean water infrastructure. That money has already been allocated to projects. R. Weimar reported that there are NH bills currently being debated about accessory dwelling units - HB1261 and HB1399. There is debate on whether the wording should be that ADUs "shall be allowed" or "may be allowed". Adding up to two additional detached accessory dwelling units on lots may impact population and thus septic and water use. Septic must be certified by the state. Impact studies may be needed.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes -

1/30/24 HWRC meeting minutes - R. Weimar made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Second by M. Bunker. Vote was unanimous.

5. Adjourn

6:58 pm - M. Bunker made a motion to adjourn. Second by R. Weimar. Vote was unanimous.