



Town of Sherborn Groundwater Protection Committee

GPC Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

1. **Call to Order** 7:31 p.m., roll call vote Members present: Tom Trainor, Melinda O'Neill, Tara Hourihan, Stef Harrison, Steve Constantine, Barton Kunstler, David Sossen, Andrea Stiller. Members not present: None. Guests present: Sean Killeen (DPW Director), Jeremy Marsette (Town Administrator), Addie Mae Weiss (DPW Administrator), Dorothea Von Herder (Sustainability Coordinator), Julie Dreyfus, Kelly Adduci, Frank Hess. Review tonight's agenda (consider addition of Topics not anticipated 48-hours in advance). TT requested to add a project of the Town Sustainability Coordinator and the local Boggestow Garden Club "Pollinator Pathway" to the agenda. Motion to approve the amended agenda by DS, seconded by TH and approved unanimously by roll call vote.
2. **Minutes** - Review of April 12th meeting minutes, motion to accept amended minutes (DS), seconded (MO), and approved unanimously by roll call vote.
3. **Existing GPC agenda items:**
 - a. **Town well/septic GIS database ARPA-funded project – Project updates, transition to third intern.** Tara, Dave, and Tom have recently conducted a new candidate interview. This replacement intern was hired and will start on 5/23/23. Tom, Andrea, and Stef will try to meet in early June to work on reviewing the sizable amount of data already collected and consider some next steps. David is available to help if needed.
 - b. **May 9th GPC sponsored webinar on septic maintenance for Sherborn homeowners. Next steps.** Barton, Andrea, and Tom noted it generally provided some very good information. Andrea noted the presence of Mark Oram, BOH agent and Darryl Beardsley, BOH member was particularly helpful to make the presentation more relevant to Sherborn residents. Melinda echoed the benefit of tailoring to Sherborn. The rescheduled date from the original March 14th reduced the number of participants. We will post the video presentation on the GPC website.
 - c. **PFAS Initiatives: Updates on Sherborn residential well PFAS testing by MassDEP, and monthly Sherborn public water supply (PWS) wells. April 24 MassDEP letter to MA Rep James Arena-DeRosa and April 21 letter to Town of Sherborn regarding several anticipated Sherborn PWS PFAS exceedances if proposed new EPA PFAS limits are adopted. Invited speaker: Town Administrator Jeremy Marsette, discussion with GPC on Town progress to address municipal PWS PFAS issues.**
[Town of Sherborn Municipal Water Supplies Status of PFAS Compliance Regulation Slide Set](#) and [MassDEP Public Water Systems Grant Flyer](#) (documents available from the links shown here) provided by Jeremy Marsette. Jeremy presented a general synopsis of PFAS and related current MA drinking water standards. He presented recent data from Sherborn's Town-owned public wells, noting that there has been no sudden change in Sherborn drinking water quality, but rather PFAS testing is somewhat new and only started to be conducted as required by the MassDEP in the past 18 months. Major discussion points: Encourage the Town to take proactive approaches - provide bottled water in Town buildings, PFAS concentration numbers tend to fluctuate, Jeremy and Sean are looking into treatment options for the Town campus, Woodhaven and Leland housing facilities, further discussions about reverse osmosis, point

of use filters.

- d. **Updates on any MGL 21E hazardous waste release sites and/or new groundwater potential contamination within Sherborn and adjacent towns (General Chemical/Framingham, etc) with potential threats to Sherborn groundwater.** Not discussed.
- e. **Annual Town Meeting approved warrant article # 14 – Land Acquisition Committee, addition of a new member to be designated by the Groundwater Protection Committee.** Steve Constantine volunteered to represent the GPC as a newly appointed member of the Land Acquisition committee. Motion to approve this GPC appointment made (SH), seconded (DS), roll call vote unanimously approved. Thank you, Steve, for joining this additional committee.
- f. **MA Drought Management Task Force – updates on current MA drought conditions.** Not discussed.
- g. **Any new Outreach efforts needed? Future PFAS public forum event with Water Commissioners?** Not discussed.

4. New GPC agenda items.

- a. **Sherborn Climate and Resilience Action Plan – updates.** Not discussed.
- b. **Oversight of large multi-dwelling Groundwater Discharge Permits by MassDEP (treated effluent from larger wastewater treatment facilities in Sherborn, existing locations, and future proposed sites).** Not discussed.
- c. **MA Coastal Railroad 2023 Vegetation Management Plan, annual herbicide applications along rail line, Sherborn comments due June 9th to Mass Pesticide Bureau.** Tom had shared prior to tonight's meeting an annual notice to the Town about upcoming rail line pesticide treatments. Andrea expressed concern about pesticides and wells. Tom shared a QGIS map (*note the mapping information was readily available due to the ongoing work of the GPC interns*). Tom shared concerns over the accumulative effects of the various pesticide/herbicide treatments conducted annually in various areas of Sherborn (along the power transmission lines, along the railroad right-of-way, residential yard practices) and road salt applications. Tom pointed out via the maps some resident wells that are close (within 100 ft) to the railroad lines, including properties on Cider Hill Road and near downtown Sherborn. Andrea noted that the 50 feet noted in the railroad vegetation plan is not a lot of distance once a contaminant hits the groundwater level, because contaminants can move fast. Tom asked members to read the plan and send him any additional concerns. Tom will prepare comments and send a letter of concern to the Railroad. Stef offered to help. Motion to approve (AS), seconded by (DS), roll call vote approved unanimously.
- d. **New Select Board initiative: North Sherborn Water/Sewer District (Framingham MWRA water/sewer to serve potential Coolidge Street affordable housing developments).** BOS Meeting 5/4/23 Presentation on Proposed North Sherborn Water Sewer District by Marian Neutra, Vice Chair of Select Board and Jeremy Marsette, Town Administrator. Stef encouraged GPC members to watch/listen to the recording for more information.
- e. **How to best manage the new GPC SharePoint site on the Town's IT department account. New common location to archive and share files (big thanks to Klaus Ullmann).** Not discussed.
- f. **Pollinator Pathway** Tom to prepare a letter of support. Motion to GPC supporting this initiative (MO), seconded (DS), roll call vote passed unanimously.
- g. **New topics to add to future GPC meeting agendas?** Not discussed.

5. Scheduling the next GPC meeting: Wed June 14th 7:30 PM.

- 6. **Motion to adjourn** at 9:12 p.m. (DS), seconded (AS), roll call vote unanimous.