

**Water Resource Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2011**

Present: Jack Collins, Hansen Cummins, Stephen Dix, George James, Steven Ross

Absent: Mervin Roberts

The meeting commenced at 5:10 PM in the Memorial Town Hall Main meeting Room.

Election of Chairman: Steven Ross was nominated to be Chairman; motion by Jack Collins, seconded by George James. A request was made for other nominations; there being none the motion was voted and approved unanimously.

The Minutes of the organizational meeting held June 2, 2011 were approved unanimously after a motion was made by Jack and seconded by Stephen.

Jack reported that he had been referred to an attorney at DEP regarding aquifers. The attorney indicated that each town is supposed to identify aquifers and that DEP has an aquifer protection system. DEP does not get involved with exportation of water unless it exceeds 50,000 gallons per day. This attorney suggested that Jack contact another individual (Kim Czapla) who is involved in the program to meet with the committee because DEP wants more involvement at the local level.

Hansen noted that DPH has some jurisdiction and regulations related to water quality.

George commented on identifying aquifers; Lt River, Black Hall River, Four Mile River basins and Rogers Lake, A geodetic survey to 1000 ft. might be available; George is working on trying to get it.

Hansen commented on the Old Saybrook sewer avoidance experience where it became apparent that DEP's rationale does not hold up. They just want to put sewers along the entire coastline. George and Stephen commented that DEP does not want to consider or approve alternative waste treatment systems despite the successful use of them. Nationally, the trend is to disperse, not collect, waste for treatment. Steve commented that DEP appears to be empire building. They want systems that they regulate like sewers and have ignored evidence related to alternative systems and methods of waste treatment.

Stephen commented that people value water and water quality is understood by the public but waste management much less so.

Steve reminded the committee that our focus is on protection of aquifers. While somewhat related, waste management and water quality are WPCA matters.

Hansen and Jack suggested that we next determine if we have the jurisdictional authority to enact an aquifer protection system. We agreed that the next step must be to set up a meeting with Kim Czapla from DEP. Jack will contact her to set a date which will be the date of our next meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jack, seconded by Stephen, voted and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 PM.

These Minutes are not approved and will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Submitted by: Steven A. Ross