

**Water Resources Committee
Memorial Town Hall in Old Lyme, CT
Minutes of Organizational Meeting
June 2, 2011**

Members appointed by First Selectman Timothy Griswold:

Jack Collins, Hansen Cummins, Stephen Dix, George James, Mervin Roberts, Steven Ross

Present: Jack Collins, George James, Mervin Roberts, Steven Ross

The meeting commenced at 5:00 PM.

Steven Ross summarized the proposal he had submitted to the Board of Selectmen dated October 8, 2010. The Proposal suggested that the Town of Old Lyme draft an Ordinance to protect its water supplies and described what might be included in the Ordinance. The proposal calls for requiring a permit to export water by any means from Old Lyme and such permit would require the applicant to demonstrate that there would not be an adverse impact to other property owners from their exportation. It was intended as a conceptual memorandum and in further discussion with Tim Griswold, it was agreed that a committee should be formed to investigate the proposal and draft the Ordinance.

It was agreed that all water (for domestic and business use) in Old Lyme, whether from wells or CT Water Company systems, comes from sub-surface aquifers in the Town. The importance of clean and adequate supplies can be demonstrated by the increased use of bottled water in our society at a cost that is greater than gasoline by volume.

Discussion ensued as to whether there might be any State statute or regulations that would prohibit or limit the ability to adopt such an ordinance. The potential role of the CT DEP and their prior actions in Old Lyme were also discussed.

There was discussion about prior water related studies that may have been done in Old Lyme and the need to find what may already exist. Jack, George and Merv mentioned some individuals who have been involved with and are quite knowledgeable about various water issues that we might contact.

It was agreed that we need to answer some basic questions before proceeding to be sure we can adopt an ordinance for this purpose that will be enforceable and look into what related information is available. Jack will research the legal feasibility to determine this and to determine if we might need some action from our State legislator(s).

George will discuss the matter with Mike Sullivan of the Conservation Commission. Merv will contact Nathan Jacobson in Chester for info that might be available. Steve will check into any existing study that may be on file in the Town offices. Steve will also clarify what type of committee we are and our responsibilities under the FOI Act.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held June 23, 2011, at 5:00 PM in Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Submitted by: Steven A. Ross

