

NEW SHOREHAM WATER COMMISSION

March 31, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING Minutes

Present were WATER Commission members Chair Sandra Finizia, Vice Chair Robby Brown, Wayne Battey, Cliff McGinnes, alternates Frank Leslie and Rally Migliaccio, District Clerk Janet Ziegler.

Absent was member Peter McNerney.

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Finance Director Amy Lewis, and Dave Simmons.

Absent was Attorney Elliot Taubman.

Chair S. Finizia announced that F. Leslie would be voting in place of P. McNerney.

**MOTION:** by S. Finizia that the emergency session be called to order to address the address unexpected rise of Sands Pond water level and encroachment on the Block Island Water Company (BIWC) property. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to convene was:

WATER AYE: 5 (Battey, Brown, Finizia, Leslie, McGinnes). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

S. Finizia called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M

Responding to a number of recent concerns voiced by water customers regarding the viability of BIWC operations, Water Superintendent D. Simmons assured everyone that the plant was fully operational and that there should be no concern for the delivery or safe water. The plant is not in an emergency state as of this meeting, however if the Pond level were to increase another eighteen inches it would enter the door. Simmons then recounted the history of Sands Pond and presented a 2006 PowerPoint regarding the hydrogeology of area. Noted was that the information and presentation was also available on the web at

<http://www.blockislandwater.org/PDF%20files/Sands%20Pondcouncil.pdf>

Sands Pond contains approximately 5 million gallons per vertical foot. The ground water drainage area to Sands Pond covers approximately 79 acres and the rate of groundwater recharge potential could be estimated at a additional 6.6 million gallons of water per vertical foot. Engineer J. Geremia stated that a siphoning system could be developed to create a flow of 300 gallons per minute with a cost of \$20-\$25K. Pumping would require a commitment of money, crew and management. Even a five-inch hose would, relatively, not carry much water and there are no sizable pumps on the island.

Several long-term and short-term solutions were discussed. It was reported that the property owners who abut Sands Pond were in the process of organizing an association.

Sands Pond, is at an historically high level and needs to be actively managed. Over time, the natural sluices and wetland drainages have been block by development. There was general agreement that it was the Town's responsibility to manage the pond's level as owners of the municipal BIWC.

Due to a conflict with another meeting scheduled at the town, the meeting had to come to a close, but would be agended at the next monthly meeting of the water commission, April 19. The public was reassured again that the BIWC was not in eminent peril at this time, but that short and long-term plans of action need to be developed.

**MOTION:** by S. Finizia to adjourn the meeting was unanimously carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ziegler

District Clerk Approved: April 19, 2010



every drop counts

<http://www.blockislandwater.org/minutes.html>

The New Shoreham Sewer Commission and Water Board are an equal opportunity providers and employers.