

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT WPCA MEETING  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
ESSEX TOWN HALL – MAY 20, 2019 5:00 PM**

The Essex Water Pollution Control Authority Regular Meeting was held on Monday, May 20, 2019. In attendance were Chair Susan Malan, Randel Osborne and Mark Reeves. Also in attendance were Lisa Fasulo, Director of Health, Thad King, Environmental Inspector and Shannon DeLorso, Secretary. Absent: Leigh Rankin, Al Wolfgram and Wendy Arnold.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Malan at 5:07 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Randel Osborne and seconded by Mark Reeves, the Water Pollution Control Authority unanimously **VOTED** to approve the agenda as written.

**CONSIDERATION OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Randel Osborne and seconded by Mark Reeves, the Water Pollution Control Authority unanimously **VOTED** to approve the April 2019 minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**i. Main Street Essex – Monitoring Wells Report**

Ms. Fasulo stated that the monitoring wells report for MW#-8 is much improved compared to how it's been for the last five years or so. Thad King, Environmental Inspector, handed out a map showing the locations and status of the monitoring wells in town. Mr. King said that he was able to walk around with David Kirpas, the water sampling contractor from Eastern Analytical Lab, to identify the locations and siting of each monitoring well. Generally speaking, the wells are not in ideal locations and are relatively shallow. The groundwater being tested is the overbearing on the ledge. Mr. King talked about the drinking water standards and mentioned that their observation is that there is a general upward trend in the nitrate level. He looked at the sampling results for each period and explained why Nitrate-Nitrogen levels may be higher now. He also mentioned that he thinks a well should be installed on Pratt Street and that there are probably some modifications or repositioning of monitoring wells that could be done so that the wells are located outside of the roadway. Mr. King recommends having an outside engineering firm do an assessment and make recommendation for siting new groundwater monitoring wells in the area.

Ms. Malan and Mr. Reeves asked if the testing that the town is doing complies with the standards of the DEEP. Mr. King said that DEEP has their own action level for drinking water quality which the State Health Department has also adopted. He's fairly certain that the town is only required to follow the standards that are indicative of our wastewater standards (not drinking water standards).

Ms. Malan asked if there should be groundwater monitoring wells installed in Ivoryton and Centerbrook. Ms. Fasulo said that it's up to the town to decide if additional monitoring wells should be installed in those areas and that it should be done in conjunction with a professional engineer's assessment to properly site the wells. Mr. Reeves also wonders if these wells should be placed in Ivoryton and Centerbrook in case the State is to ever come in and inspect. Mr. King said that as long as the town has documentation to back up the studies that have been done then the town should be in good standing.

The manner in which the groundwater is collected and sampled and the way the data is analyzed is important to be able to show the State. Mr. King explained the procedure he used to summarize existing groundwater monitoring data and to find septic system information in the Essex Village area. Mr. King reviewed information in the property files located in the Essex Health Dept. He looked at each parcel to see if there was a B100A Plan Review done by the Health Dept, site survey, soil test information, a septic system AS-BUILT drawing, or any documentation about the original septic system installation or a

subsequent repair. Mr. King looked at the basis of the septic system design (residential, commercial or mixed use), historic and current water usage, and a permit to discharge. Most importantly he did an initial assessment of the availability to install a Public Health Code (PHC)-compliant septic system on the parcel. 34 parcels do not have any information collected on them at the present time and therefore these areas should be addressed.

Mr. King stated that 75% of these properties are PHC-code compliant. 7 parcels have an area that is most likely Code-compliant, and 3 parcels may be Code-compliant, but a determination cannot be made without additional information such as a B100A Plan Review. There are 9 parcels that are not going to be Code-compliant because they don't have any available area. Ms. Malan asked about these property owners coming in to the town and requested easements to make their property compliant. Mr. King mentioned that in terms of treatment, there are three primary strategies that could be done to rectify the problem, which he explained to the Commission.

**ii. Cesspool Removal/Replacement Ordinance Action Steps**

Ms. Fasulo believes that there are cesspools on 1, 3 and 5 Main Street, Essex. Ms. Fasulo has asked the property owner of 1-3-5 Main Street to evaluate the existing leaching structures located under Pratt St. and advised him that a septic tank must be installed if one is not already present.

**iii. Essex Village Data Collection**

Previously discussed.

**iv. Essex Yacht Club**

Ms. Fasulo stated that the septic system components are installed (septic tank, pump chambers, pumps, leaching structures) but that the SoilAir system is not yet installed.

**v. Essex Corinthian Yacht Club**

They have changed their pump chamber and all is complete.

**vi. New Tenants**

None.

**REPORT – LISA FASULO, HEALTH DIRECTOR**

Ms. Fasulo recently issued an order to Spencer's Corner due to their septic system being in need of repair.

Ms. Malan asked Ms. Fasulo about the old Benny's building at 5 Main St, Centerbrook. Ms. Fasulo said that the new owners are planning to have a retail business in the front of the building and a Barbecue foodservice business in the kitchen in the back of the building. The food will be for take-out only. The owner has approvals to renovate the front showroom area but has not yet submitted their kitchen equipment list and foodservice plan to Ms. Fasulo.

Ms. Fasulo said that a new brewery will be located in the Witch Hazel complex at 6 Main St. Centerbrook and they are proposing to add more seating than their original plan. Ms. Fasulo is working with them on how to accommodate the additional number of seats given the size of the septic system that is currently in place.

Someone is inquiring to put in a deli in the space next to where Olive Oyl's used to be located at 53 Main St., Essex. Ms. Fasulo said that this business would only be able to use up to 200 gallons of water per day. If it is found that more water is needed, the business owner will have to hire an engineer to develop a plan and to upgrade the septic system.

Ms. Fasulo said that there is a proposal for a new building on Route 153 which will have 35 employees. This project is still in the preliminary phase.

Bathing beach water quality monitoring will resume this summer at Viney Hill Brook park.

**REVIEW OPERATING STATEMENT AND INCOME STATEMENT**

There is \$1,500 remaining in the water testing budget for FY 2018-19. Groundwater monitoring in Essex Village is done twice per year and 4 surface water sites are sampled twice per year. These expenses are included in the upcoming FY2019-20 budget.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Mark Reeves and seconded by Randel Osborne, the Water Pollution Control Authority unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shannon DeLorso, Water Pollution Control Authority Secretary