

Meredith Conservation Commission
Minutes – Dec 15, 2011
Community Center – 7:00 PM

Attending: Tony Sabutis, John Sherman, RalphPispia, Bob Davis, Bob LeCount, Don MacFarlane, Peter Miller, Mark Billings, Paula Wanzer

Public: John Brooks – Emery & Garrett, Dave Thorpe – Meredith Water System Committee, John Edgar – Town of Meredith Community Development

Meeting called to Order:

7:02pm by Mark Billings

Purpose of Meeting:

This is a special meeting, called for the purpose of reviewing and responding to the request from the Town of Meredith to drill a test well at a specific site within the Meredith Community Forest. The Commission has been appointed stewardship responsibilities for this property.

The guests attending will answer the questions that the Commission has regarding the proposed well site.

John Brooks – Emery & Garrett
Dave Thorpe – Meredith Water System Committee
John Edgar – Community Development

J Edgar: Dave Sanderson, Attorney for The Local Government Center, Concord, NH, sees that no statute conflicts.

He believes that the State will see it as a good thing since the Commission manages the town forest that surrounds the proposed well site.

If goes to production then need to go to a town meeting

Dave Thorpe: With the current water system there are four possible points of short term failure - Storage tower, pipe leading to tower, treatment plant and the reservoir – Lake Waukewan.

In Lake Waukewan, it is a cyanobacteria threat not a volume problem.

The reason the Town is looking at ground water is that it requires less treatment. The Town wants to move slowly, carefully, over a period of time and choose a site that has good volume and is near the main pipe.

We now use 250,00 gal / day in winter and 330,00 gal / day summer – higher amounts on hot summer day

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Bob D: What if 16" main failed?

Dave T: We would bring in portable storage devices.

Bob D: Is it not a good idea to have another well site, just in case?

Dave T: The second potential well site is a ways away. If we build another tower in the Barnard Ridge area, the second site, on private land, has potential.

Ralph: Is there a plan to draw from (Lake)Winnepesaukee ?

Dave T: This is not a practical solution. We would need trucks to transport the water to the treatment facility.

Ralph: Have you drilled at all the sites?

John B: No – we use a magatometer and with it we have identified 33 bedrock sites, eleven of which are primary sites. We want to use a primary site that is near the distribution system. That is why we've chosen to start at 9a. It is on town property. If unsuccessful, we would then try 9c (secondary site) because it is also in the Meredith Town Forest, near Jenness Hill Road. We can then hook into the line. It makes more sense rather than go further away from the main line to find a primary site.

Don: –Would you connect to 9a?

John B.: We'd go to Jenness Hill to avoid wet land damage.

John E.: I suggest vote on only 9a.

Bob D: What is the time frame to have the well up and running?

J Edgar: We're not sure of the time frame. We want to move along and find a reasonable site. If we need to get a hold of one on private land that will be a long range exercise because of the substantial cost.

John B: We usually drill 4-5 (holes) before we get a hit.

Bob L: Will this affect other wells?

John B / John E: There are tests and a permitting process that reviews and tests the site. This enables us to study impact of well on neighbors and wetlands.

Peter M: What is the next step?

John E: If the Commission grants their approval then we need to talk to the abutter to get permission to drive our vehicle over his property.

John B: We want to get in ASAP so that the ground is frozen and there is little snow. The vehicle is a 20-30 ton rig – 6ft wide, 30 ft long. There is also one other truck for supplies. The site is turn off is 80 ft from town forest border. We will build a nonpermanent road to get the gear in and place fill rather than removing bedrock.

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We will drill a 6 “ exploration well, look at the yield, examine samples for water quality. In this case if we find it satisfactory we will ream it out, and do all the preliminary work so we do not have to go in again.

If the water is of good quality, we don’t need much treatment. The well house does not necessarily have to be on the site. We can put up a well house anywhere we need to have it.

Don M: Describe the protective area – do they allow activity near it?

John B: Yes, the state does not mind things like trails.

Don M: Noise?

John B: Quiet

Ralph P: What happens if the well hole is dry?

John B: We can then use it as a monitoring well – rehab site for 9c.

Ralph P: If permanent, than are you going to leave the fill and make a gravel driveway?

Peter M: What is the cost savings?

Dave T: Compared to other options, it is \$1-2 million savings compared to any of the other alternatives, except 9c.

Bob L: What happens if the site is good?

Dave T: While the rig on site, they will drill the hole out to 8”.

John B: Sometimes when we ream out a hole we see amount of water double.

Don M: What about the tailings?

John B: We don’t normally take tailings off site. The amount of tiles would add up to the size of these four 6’ tables.

John E: You might want to have a MCC member meet with Phil to discuss details. Thus far we have no designated site manager.

Peter M: What about blooms?

John E: We had a bloom in either October or November. They are most likely to occur when the water turns over because there is a lot of phosphorus on bottom. We are not sure if we are having more blooms or we are seeing them because we looking for them more frequently.

Bob L: How successful have you been in finding wells?

John B: Normally, 1 out of 4 tests; we may get lucky and hit on the first test.

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Discussion:

Ralph Pisapia said:

The Commission has heard the briefing tonight from the Meredith Water Supply Committee and their consultant about the goal and methods taken to find a backup supply of fresh water for the municipal water system and their desire to drill a test well at their site 9A located on the Meredith Community Forest. Commission members also recognize their responsibility to steward this town forest for the purposes for which it was established while seeking to accommodate the search for a backup water supply for the municipal system. Therefore, I propose the following motion for the Commission to consider:

Motion:

I motion that the Commission vote to approve access to the test well site know as 9A on the Meredith Community Forest with the knowledge that it may later result in a production well with the following provisions:

1. Access to the well site will only be gained from the snowmobile trail off Bonny Shores Road;
2. All required permanent utility lines, including electric and water will be placed underground according to the best management practices for such activities;
3. A limited number of trees and rocks identified beforehand to the Commission may be moved or removed and all cut trees and limbs will be removed from the Town Forest;
4. All tailing from the drilling operation will be removed from the Town Forest and disposed of in a safe manner;
5. Other than the well head and protective fencing, no other permanent structures may be constructed in the Town Forest;
6. A minimal amount of fill material required for equipment access needed to develop the test well will be allowed to remain after initial development to provide permanent access for well maintenance purposes;
7. Should the test well prove to be unproductive, all protective fencing erected around the well head will be removed from the Town Forest.

Motion: Ralph

Second: Peter

Motion Passed

Additional Questions:

Removable cap – monitoring - do we need fencing?

6” casing – pull out then drill 8” then add casing?

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Motion to recommend to BOS that Peter become as Alternate and Tony S becomes MCC member.

Motion: Bob D
Second: Don
Motion Passed

Motion to accept Minutes 12-15-11
Motion: John S
Second: Bob D
Minutes accepted

Motion to Adjourn
Motion: Mark
Second: Bob D
Passed

Adjourned: 9pm

NEXT MEETING:
January 5, 2012
Meredith Community Center, Rm C, 7pm

Respectively submitted by:
Paula Wanzer - Secretary

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