

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Friday, November 22, 2024

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Friday, November 22, 2024, in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Curtis Barnes, Nelson Eldridge and John Pearl were present at the table and Commissioner Robert Benchley by conference phone. *Commissioners Absent:* None. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director, Shelby Campbell Business Manager and Linda Roberts Project Coordinator. *Public:* None.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard recognized a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl, and unanimously accepted the agenda as presented.
3. **Public Comment:** None present however a letter dated November 18, 2024, from Meg Miller Ruley to the Board of Health and copied to the PFAS Task Force with references and copies of the Nantucket Water Commission July 8, 2021 and June 13, 2024 meeting minutes was circulated to the commissioners to read. She asked the Board of Health if they would be holding any public hearings regarding upcoming projects in the 2 Fairgrounds Road/Amelia Drive neighborhood and their potential impact on the public water supply. She noted that there is a site discover investigation December 2-6, 2024, with the installation of twelve plus monitoring wells and soil samples regarding the presence of PFAS in the area. She noted the high levels of PFAS contamination in private wells on Toms Way located adjacent to the 2 Fairgrounds Road/Amelia Drive projects as well as within 800' of several municipal wells managed by Wannacomet Water Company. She noted the July 8, 2021, Water Commissioners meeting minutes item #6B that the municipal well number 15 was contaminated with PDAS6. Also noting the Commissions meeting minutes from June 8, 2024, that well number 15 continues to test with PFAS6 and that we are not using the well with its proximity to Toms Way.
4. **Review of Minutes from November 14, 2024.** After review, Commissioner Eldridge made the motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Barnes. All others except for Commissioner Benchley voted to approve the meeting minutes from November 14, 2024, as presented.
5. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Water Quality & Mass DEP Sample Schedule Update:** The Director has been reviewing the water samples in the Madaket area. Our Operations Manager, Robert West has nearly completed the survey plan for the Arkansas Avenue area. Director Willett discussed sampling of the shallow and deep wells. The DEP are still reviewing the new well documents submitted earlier in the year. We hope that this can be fast tracked. The Biden Harris Administration issued the final ruling requiring all lead services be removed and replaced within the next two years. We have a letter that is being mailed out to all customers and then another for those who we have identified as having lead service. There are approximately 100 services still with lead service lines. Routine sampling detected components of PFAS in Well 15. Confirmatory tests showed no issues in active wells. Well 15 is not online and not used. Director Willett will make up a public announcement. There is no violation of safety standards. The information about the lead letters and the public announcement of water sampling results will be put on the Water Company website. After discussion motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and unanimously voted to follow Massachusetts for Public Education notices and information.

- b. **Possible Drought Condition:** The Director and the other Cape & Islands Water managers continue to work with Massachusetts Water Liaison Jenn Pederson regarding precipitation and drought communication meetings with DEP. Nantucket was pulled out of the drought condition. Yesterday's one inch of rain should further help us. The next review regarding drought conditions will be in December.
6. **Discussion, amendment, and execution of any personnel or vendor contracts:** None.
7. **Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair.** None.
8. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Eldridge made the motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimously voted to end the regular business meeting at 9:04 AM.

Approved: Nelson Eldridge Date: 1-9-25

The meeting packet included 11/22/24 Agenda, reports, Meg Miller Ruley's letter and information on the Mondo Board.

November 18, 2024

Dear Dr. MacNab and the Board of Health:

I am writing to ask if the Board of Health will be holding any public hearings regarding upcoming projects in the 2 Fairground Road/Amelia Drive neighborhood and their potential impact on the public water supply.

The pending MA DEP 2 Fairgrounds Road site discovery investigation will likely provide you with important information regarding the presence of PFAS in the area. These projects are all located in the Tier II wellhead area within 800 feet of Wannacomet Water Company and several of our municipal wells.

On October 24, 2024, the Nantucket Board of Health (BOH) met regarding the development at Surfside Crossing. During this meeting the BOH discussed its position regarding the scope of the project and its impact(s) on the sensitive Tier II wellhead area, nearby residents' private drinking wells, and Nantucket's single source aquifer. I hope you will consider exhibiting similar diligence with the 2 Fairgrounds Road/Amelia Drive area projects.

In September 2023, some of the highest levels of PFAS contamination in Massachusetts were discovered in private wells on Toms Way – located adjacent to the 2 Fairgrounds Road/Amelia Drive projects as well as within 800' of several municipal wells managed by Wannacomet Water Company, the supplier of our public drinking water. If you refer to the July 8, 2021 Wannacomet Water minutes item #6B you will note that Municipal Well #15 (located in this area) tested by MA DEP was contaminated with PFAS6. As cited in the June 8, 2024, Wannacomet Water minutes, Municipal Well #15 continues to test with PFAS6 (as per MA DEP well database) and as per Wannacomet Water Company Director Mark Willett "we are not using Well #15 with its proximity to Toms Way."

MA DEP along with subcontractor, Verdantas, will be on Island December 2-6, 2024 to begin the discovery site investigation to understand the significant contamination event which includes the installation of 12+ monitoring wells and soil samples in areas between Ticcoma Way, Waitt and Amelia Drives, and Fairgrounds and Old South Roads.

Has, or will, the Board of Health consult with the Town of Nantucket and environmental experts to determine if an environmental assessment should be conducted prior to more building permits being issued and more construction started in this area to make certain that the Town's public wells, the Island's single source aquifer, as well as nearby residents' private wells in this Tier II area are protected?

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Meg Miller Ruley

Meg Miller Ruley

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cc: PFAS Task Force via Gregg Tivnan; Brooke Mohr, Chair Nantucket Selectboard; Allen Reinhard Chair Wannacomet Water Commission; Martin Gerard MA DEP; John Handrahan, MA DEP.