

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, December 12, 2024

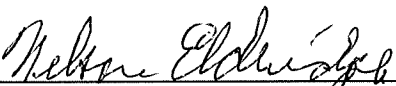
A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Curtis Barnes, Nelson Eldridge and John Pearl and Rob Benchley were present. *Commissioners Absent:* None. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director and Linda Roberts Project Coordinator. *Public:* Meg Miller Ruley and Emily Molden Executive Director for the Nantucket Land & Water Council.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard recognized a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl, and unanimously accepted the agenda as presented.
3. **Public Comment:** Meg Miller Ruley handed out a follow up timeline she prepared from 2021 to present along with a letter dated November 18, 2024, which was read at the NWC 11/22/24 meeting. Ms. Miller spoke as a resident and as a real estate agent about concerns and worry about uncertainties with future development and growth. Discussion continued about geothermal wells which pump and dump water. The Town of Nantucket has two deep geothermal wells. One is at the Airport and another at the Public Safety Facility. Ms. Miller talked about her experiences with being shut down at Board of Health meetings. She has made Freedom of Information requests for public documents which area heavily redacted. Ms. Ruley attends Town's PFAS Task Force meetings and keeps in contact with Mass DEP representatives who are her doing monitoring wells and site discover investigation regarding the presence of PFAS in the area. Director Willett discussed the new well at North Pasture that is in review for DEP approval and the need to find additional land for an additional well location. Emily Molden introduced herself as the Director of the Nantucket Land and Water Council. Ms. Molden and Director Willett correspond and speak regularly. She spoke about her concerns with developments within the Zone II area and the review processes with Town Boards and special permit reviews. Ms. Molden has concerns with some of the development projects and their impact due to impervious services. Discussion included commercial businesses requirements for holding tanks, concrete systems and storm water criteria. The Commissioners expressed appreciation and thanked Ms. Ruley and Ms. Molden for coming and welcomed them to return.
4. **Review of Minutes from November 22, 2024.** The minutes from the November 22, 2024, meeting will be reviewed at the January meeting.
5. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Water Quality, Mass DEP Sample Schedule and Public Education:** The Director has been in touch with the DEP Director and staff. The sampling schedules will be changing and increasing our costs for 2025. Well 15 has not been used and will continue to be off except for any required sampling. The Director discussed PFAS areas, identifying plumes and decontamination processes. The investigate search from the DEP is to try and identify the contaminants and the property owner will be responsible for the contamination costs to remediate.
 - b. **Sewer Force Main Update:** The Director updated the Commission on the sewer force main projects which are being done by the Robert B Our group. Work continues on Liberty and Gardner Streets. It's a difficult area as the main is cased in eight feet of concrete. Work is also being done on Winder Street and portions of Pleasant. Drainage work is being included

with the States reconstruction of the Polpis and Milestone turning lanes. This will include catch basin collection and infiltrators. We are storing pipe and materials for the work.

- c. **Lead Letters:** The lead letters have been mailed out with QR codes and our contact information for homeowners to respond. Ninety-nine percent of Sconset and Town are lead free. Those identified with lead services will be responsible for replacing the service on their property from their meter to their house. Wannacommet will replace any lead services after the meter.
 - d. **Possible Drought Condition Plan for 2025:** The Director reported that production is right where they should be this time of year. The pumps should be about the same until production increases in April when landscaping resumes. Next year we may have to have a moratorium on landscaping if drought conditions continue. The Mass DEP and drought management team will determine what we can do with using their resources for outside uses. Pool water is not an issue it's the irrigation systems. Discussion regarding the depth of the wells, recharging and communication between the water tables below and above the semi confining area took place. The review process for the new well will take a minimum of another year to go for permitting.
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 Barnes made the motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge, and unanimously voted to end the regular business meeting at 9:21 AM.

Approved:  Date: 1-9-25

The meeting packet included 12/12/24 Agenda, reports, Meg Miller Ruley's letter and timeline and information on the Mondo Board.

PFAS Timeline for areas on Nantucket including 2, 4, 6 Fairgrounds Road, Amelia Drive, Waitt Drive, Toms Way		
PFAS Discovery Timeline Activity	Notes/Comments/Resource	
2024, December 2-6: 2, 4, 6 Fairgrounds Road, Waitt Drive, Amelia Drive, Ticcoma Way	MA DEP and Verdantas arrive on Nantucket to dig 10 monitoring wells and take 10 soil samples. Water samples to be drawn December 16&17, 2024.	
2024, December 10: Response to Citizen letter	From Chair Dr. Malcolm MacNab - At this point in time, we do not have the results of the Mass DEP Investigation. When the information becomes available, the Board of Health will take whatever action is necessary.	
2024, November 18 Citizen letter sent to the Nantucket Board of Health about concerns protecting municipal wells.	M. Ruley sends a letter to the Board of Health asking in an effort to protect our municipal wells, if there will be any type of environmental diligence in this area prior to issuing any more building permits in this area due the contamination that has been documented all around this area, including some of the highest PFAS discovered in private wells in Massachusetts	
2024, November: 1 Milestone Road, Wannacomet Water Quarterly well water test results. Municipal wells test with high levels of PFAS	Results in the public well database indicate several municipal wells have high levels of PFAS6 with one well testing at 50+. A representative at the MA DEP Drinking Water program states that all wells except one were taken offline and mentions that the plume that impacted Toms Way may be moving.	
2024, October 10: PFAS in the local news	Nantucket I&M writes about open geo thermal well system in local paper.	
2024, August 20: Scope Work begins for site discovery	MA DEP arrives on Island to begin site discovery work at 2, 4, 6 Fairgrounds Road, Waitt Drive, Amelia Drive.	
2024, July: 4 Fairgrounds Road. Discovery of an open loop geo thermal system	In a July 24 email obtained via FOIA from MA DEP. TON consultant Chuck Larson mentions to the MA DEP there is an open loop geothermal well and they learned at the airport this type of well could be impacting our aquifer with proximity to municipal wells.	
2024, June 28: ACK PFAS Addendum RTN 4-28219	Addendum discusses open loop geothermal system. Refer to Table 3 and discussion of geothermal loop throughout document.	
2024, June 13, 2024: 1 Milestone Road, Wannacomet Water. Well 15 to remain offline	Wannacomet Water Minutes Indicate that well #15 remains offline due to it's proximity to Toms Way. Item #6B in the minutes.	
2024, March: MA DEP secures funding for a discovery site investigation	MA DEP secures \$130,000 in funding to conduct a discovery site investigation.	
2024, January: Toms Way water installation project begins	In 8 months, easements were signed and Town Water was installed and connected to every house on Toms Way.	
2023, July: Toms Way private well testing starting in July-October 2023 by MA DEP discovers one of the highest imminent PFAS contaminations in the Commonwealth	Every private well was tested 2-3 times by MA DEP. When residents contacted the Town of Nantucket, they were instructed to talk with Wannacomet Water - not the Town or the Health Department. Residents were told by Roberto Santamaria of the Health department that the Nantucket Board of Health were told by Town Counsel not to engage with residents.	
2022, December 19: 4 Fairgrounds Road. AFFF foam (also referred to as firefighting foam) spill.	Site #4-0029633. This information is provided in the MA DEP Contamination Database. No letters were sent to abutters to notify them of spill.	

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2021-2022: MA DEP and UMASS conduct private well study	UMASS Tests 41 private wells, 5 of which test over 20ppt. One of which is on Bayberry Lane, 1000 feet from Toms Way. No letters are sent to residents within 1-2 miles as is suggested by MA DEP on their website and because it is a research study no information about location is available to the public -- however the Town of Nantucket health department receives access to locations and well results.
2021, July 8: 1 Milestone Road, Wannacommet Water. Well 15 taken offline	Wannacommet Water Minutes indicate that well #15 is offline because it tested for PFAS. Item #6B in the minutes.
2006, June 15: 2 Fairgrounds Road. Contamination Event	Site# 4-0019865. Contamination event that is documented in the MA DEP Contamination Database. No letters are sent to abutters.
2005, February 7: 2 Fairgrounds Road. Contamination event	Site # 4-0018914. Contamination event that is documented in the MA DEP Contamination Database. No letters are sent to abutters.