



TOWN OF HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

500 PLYMOUTH STREET
HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS 02338
TELEPHONE 781/293-1733
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MEETING MINUTES August 9, 2022

5:00 p.m. Donald Bosworth made a motion to open the meeting.
Seconded by Daniel Bosworth

Motion Passes

Present: Richard Clark, Chairman
Daniel O. Bosworth, Jr., Clerk
Donald Bosworth, Commissioner
Bill Lindsay, Superintendent
Kathleen O'Neil, Administrative Assistant

Meeting – Town Administrator

The new Town Administrator, Marty Golightly was in attendance to introduce himself to the Water Commissioners. Mr. Golightly stated he recently left his job at the Town of Abington, where he worked in Inspectional Services. He spoke on his military experience and firsthand knowledge of pandemics. He told the Commissioners that he was recently able to resolve the conflict regarding vacation hours due to the Water Department staff based on their current union contract. Mr. Golightly stated that it is his opinion that the town has to get more competitive to attract and keep talent and spoke on the numerous open positions in town.

Meeting Minutes

Donald Bosworth made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 14, 2022 as written.
Second by Daniel Bosworth.

Motion Passes

Discussion – Residential Backflow Testing

Bill stated that he found an email addressed to Keith Swanson from March of 2021 (attached) stating that backflow testing is going to be required for all private lawn irrigation systems. Danny said that is never going to work. Donny said so many of them freeze up. Bill stated that this department has no records of which residents have irrigation systems. The Commissioners questioned how the residents are supposed to test. Danny said some systems cannot be tested. Bill will ask other towns and see how they are handling this requirement.

Discussion – Status Earth Removal Permit Application

Bill stated that the applicant, Morse Bros. has withdrawn their application for an earth removal permit on their land located off Lingan Street. There have been reports that Morse Bros. has been removing full truckloads of earth from their property and moving it to their properties in other towns. Bill stated that he believes this work is legal under the "right to farm act."

Discussion – Summer Water Usage

Dick asked how we are doing for water usage right now. Bill said the wells come on early for about six hours then turn off for four hours. He said there have been no issues with people using water in violation of the current water restrictions. The Commissioners were pleased to hear that.

Discussion – Drought Status

Bill informed the Commissioners that earlier today; the state declared a level 3 drought for our area. Bill is considering restricting all outside water usage except to allow the watering of plants and gardens using only watering cans or jugs. The Commission thinks that sounds reasonable.

Discussion – Plant Upgrades

Dick questioned where the new generator will be placed. Bill said the new generator will be installed on a concrete pad outside the building but contained within a waterproof enclosure. Dick and Donny both expressed their concern that the diesel will freeze if left outside.

Adjournment

6:05 p.m. Daniel Bosworth made a motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Richard Clark

Motion Passes

Approved,


Daniel Bosworth, Clerk

Swanson, Keith

From: jpederson@masswaterworks.org on behalf of Massachusetts Water Works Association
<jpederson@masswaterworks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Swanson, Keith
Subject: A message has been posted for Backflow Testing Requirements

Jennifer Pederson has posted a new message in Backflow Testing Requirements
[Click here to view this topic.](#)

Please do not reply to this message. Replies to this message are routed to an unmonitored mailbox.

<-----View the message below ----->

[u]/[u]A public water system recently had a sanitary survey and MassDEP included a requirement for the public water system to include residential service connections with lawn irrigation systems in its annual BFP device testing program. The Sanitary Survey states: [i]"PWS has residential service connections which incorporate lawn irrigation systems as part of the internal plumbing, with many of those irrigation systems appropriately incorporating testable backflow prevention devices. All testable backflow prevention devices must be incorporated into PWS's annual testing program, including those on residential irrigation systems. For residential lawn irrigation systems, MassDEP recommends that public water system have a written residential lawn irrigation system cross connection control policy. This policy should be developed in cooperation with the plumbing inspector, be documented in writing, and be approved by the Board of Water Commissioners. The written policy should, at a minimum: 1. Identify the type of backflow prevention device or assembly that is required to be installed on low hazard residential lawn irrigation system connections; 2. Establish a schedule for the required testing of testable backflow devices, 3. Address high hazard residential lawn irrigation systems – any residential lawn irrigation system that includes chemical additions, or is also connected to another water source which is not an approved public water system. By December 31, 2021, PWS shall provide written notice that it has identified all existing testable backflow prevention devices located on lawn irrigation systems; has begun to test each device in accordance with the regulatory requirement; and has developed a policy to address the installation of new lawn irrigation system backflow devices. Additional staff may be necessary to develop this program."[/i] Have any other public water systems received a similar directive in their sanitary survey? (note this is a [b]requirement[/b], not just a recommendation)

Massachusetts Water Works Association • PO Box 1064, Acton, Massachusetts 01720 , United States

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