

**Quonochontaug Central Beach Fire District  
Public Works Committee Minutes  
June 3, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.  
Quonochontaug Grange Hall  
5662 Post Road (Route 1)  
Charlestown RI 0281**

**Attendance:** Vincent Reppucci; Bob Frazier; Tom Frost; Greg Reppucci; Jim Montstream; James Finn; Richard Campbell; Steve Peet; Tom Farrell (Long Range Planning)  
**Absent:** George Prior

**Meeting called to order @ 9:00**

**Informational update nitrate water level**

Monthly Nitrate levels for the Central Beach Wells 1 and 2 and East Beach Wells 1 and 2 was presented. This encompasses May 2014 through May 2017. While there are obvious seasonal variations, late summer and fall nitrate levels peak around 5-6, spring levels trough about 2-3, a linear regression trendline suggests there is no year over year trend towards increasing nitrate levels. This data, while statistically not valid to infer a long term trend projection, shows a stable, or slightly decreasing, trend over the past 3 years.

**Informational update stop sign placement**

8" power auger purchased for digging post hole for stop sign 4x4s. Stop signs purchased. 24" high reflectivity visualization allowing for 200' visibility at night. Stop signs will be set for 5' height. Painting white stripe on road at stop sign. Next weekend volunteers will gather together at pump house to unload supplies, plan and divvy up work.

Check with Dig Safe if we need to check with them before digging. 2' depth.

**Discussion and possible action regarding road resurfacing**

Need volunteers to check roads for road quality and report back to committee. It has been several years since last resurfacing. Discussion on time of year to reoil and whether to do portions are all roads within CB. No action taken but agreement to consider implementation in 2018 pending report of present road status. Present potholes; Chair should be notified and repairs will be performed.

**Discussion and possible action regarding cross connections**

In the past public work members have physically inspected homes to identify and disconnect cross connections with private wells. This relates to RIDOH requirements; a water system pressure drop may allow a cross connected well water, possibly contaminated, to enter the system. A suggestion was raised to survey homeowners for presence of irrigation system, private well, and pool. These homes could be subject to inspection by Public Works.

No action was taken.

**Discussion and possible action regarding recurring elevated water usage and water leaks**

Over the past several weeks QCBFD has experienced intermittent high volume 4-6 gallon/hr of water flow. The suspicion is a toilet is getting stuck open or a faucet is inadvertently being left open.

A discussion ensued outlining mechanisms and limitations of pinpointing the source of these intermittent, but recurring, episodes of water wastage. The following were discussed:

1. Increasing community awareness of the benefit of installing a mechanism, mechanical or remotely operated electric water shutoffs, to cutoff water while a property is unattended,
2. The high cost, ~1500 ,to replace curbstops. Possible mechanism of failure is the frequent, i.e. seasonal water turn on and off leading to valve failure.
3. Perhaps initiate a fee for curbstop service to offset the cost of replacement of on these curbstops
4. Requiring properties with pools to install water monitoring devices
5. Various tools to help isolate high flows within our delivery system to determine source of leaks were all discussed.

No action was taken.

### **Discussion and possible action RI Water Board Grant availability**

There are state and possibly federal grants available for Wellhead Water source protection. PW and Long Range planning have been approached by East Beach Water asking QCBFD to support a Rhode Island Water Board Grant application looking to secure land north of route 1. Tom Farrell provided an update of this application which was discussed at the most recent Long Range Planning Committee meeting.

A discussion ensued about the expense of piping and distributing water from a distant source and that perhaps some of the state grant/funds could be used to investigate and facilitate a deep well water sources on the Q neck, It was felt that this should remain within the Long Range Planning Committee. No action was taken.

**A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Reppucci