

Brooklyn Conservation Commission

Source Water Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

Clifford B. Green Memorial Center

August 3, 2015

Present: Diane Wimmer, Dana Heilemann, Sandy Brodeur, Tom Rukstela, Carlene Kelleher, Jeannine Noel, Charlotte Merrill, Jeffrey Arends, and Michael Oatley.

Guests: Marc Cohen of Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association, Selectman Bob Kelleher, and John Mahon of WINY.

The meeting was called to order by D. Wimmer at 7:00 pm.

Introduction and Overview: D. Wimmer thanked the subcommittee members for agreeing to participate in this project. She asked everyone to introduce himself. She introduced Marc Cohen of Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association. D. Wimmer noted that the Conservation Commission is not a regulatory agency. The subcommittee may ultimately come up with recommendations that could go through one of the regulatory agencies; how, the subcommittee's primary focus will probably be more on education and outreach programs.

New Business, Report from Marc Cohen: Marc Cohen of Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled Source Water Protection Workshop. The Source Water Protection Program is a joint project with the USDA and the National Rural Water Association. The Town will incur no costs to participate in this program. Usually the way the program works is that an initial workshop is held, followed by a couple of meetings and a final meeting at which Mr. Cohen presents a source water protection plan.

Mr. Cohen works with the USDA, EPA, Connecticut Department of Health, and DEEP. Mr. Cohen reviewed the reasons why source water protection is important. He explained the role local boards and commissions play in protecting source water, reviewed some Town of Brooklyn demographics, and presented several maps detailing land cover and aquifer locations in the Town. He presented another map from a DEEP fact sheet that shows the percentage of impervious cover throughout the Town. Mr. Cohen explained how the different types of systems are classified. According to state data, the Town has 18 small public water supplies. The subcommittee discussed apparent inaccuracies in the state's data. Mr. Cohen stated that it would be helpful to sit down with Tom Rukstela sometime to go over the list and update it. Mr. Cohen noted that while his program requires him to develop strategies to protect existing public water systems, the strategies can also protect individual wells. Education and outreach efforts will be especially useful in achieving this goal.

Mr. Cohen briefly discussed the need to identify possible future sources of drinking water. He discussed the process of glaciation in the region. The resulting aquifers are very porous and permeable. This means that they carry pollution very quickly. He presented a map of Brooklyn's potential future drinking

water sources. He next presented an overlay map which detailed individual wells as well as the Connecticut Water Aquifer Protection Area. Gravel operations compete with the need to protect the aquifers for drinking water. The subcommittee will need to have a discussion about prioritizing certain areas. The next overlay added in areas where it is known that groundwater impairment has taken place. Mr. Cohen noted that none of these sites are active or have active violations against them. It would be helpful to review the list with the Commission in order to update the information available in the EPA registries.

Mr. Cohen reviewed the process that will be followed. Now that the team has been assembled for this initial workshop, the next steps will be to evaluate threats, develop protective strategies, and prepare a plan. Mr. Cohen will assist in the initial implementation of the plan. He reviewed possible threats and protective strategies. He reviewed the things that are key to successful implementation. These include a commitment to the project by the Town and implementation at a grass roots level. He distributed a handout on understanding and protecting groundwater.

Mr. Cohen suggested that the subcommittee take a few minutes to discuss where the subcommittee's focus should be. T. Rukstela would like to review the water systems list with Mr. Cohen. D. Wimmer would like to see a parcels overlay over the aquifers map. This could be helpful in helping homeowners better understand how what they do on their properties can affect the aquifers. T. Rukstela suggested that NECCOG may be able to assist with mapping. The subcommittee briefly discussed how lawn care, septic systems, and agricultural activities have the potential to negatively impact the aquifers. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of inviting guest speakers to speak about agricultural issues and opportunities. Representatives from the USDA, local farming community, and NRCS were suggested. C. Merrill expressed concern about the impact of future development on potential aquifers. J. Arends feels the focus should be on mitigating the impact of existing businesses on the aquifers. D. Wimmer stated that getting underway with this project is particularly important since the Town still does not have Level A mapping. B. Kelleher inquired whether this project ties in in any with the new DEEP MS4 regulations. The answer is yes. Storm water is a big issue; however MS4 is an onerous program for a small municipality. MS4 will require more low impact development. C. Kelleher noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission is currently rewriting its regulations. Low impact development is one of the issues the Commission intends to address.

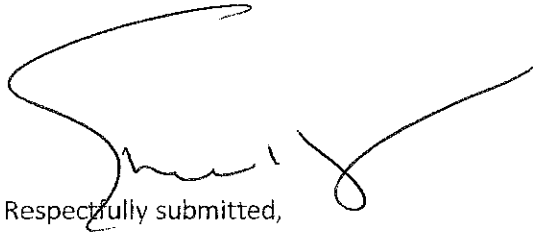
D. Wimmer inquired how long it should take to complete this process. Mr. Cohen replied that he would like to have a first draft of the plan by the end of the year. B. Kelleher agrees with J. Arends that there should be a strong focus on mitigating the impact of existing businesses. The Subcommittee briefly discussed possible opportunities for public education and outreach next year. The Brooklyn Fair, Family Fun Day, and Earth Day were all mentioned.

It was decided to hold the Subcommittee's next meeting on Monday, October 5 at 7 pm.

New Business, Other: None

Public Comment: None

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. Arends. D. Heilemann seconded. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Hopkins', with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary