

On April 5, 2021, on a motion by Tom Durkin, seconded by Tom Baron, the committee voted 8-0 to approve these minutes.

Town of Yarmouth

YARMOUTH TOWN CLERK
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**MINUTES OF THE WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
March 29, 2021**

The Yarmouth Water Resources Advisory Committee held a Remote Business Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, **March 29, 2021**. The meeting was conducted through Zoom videoconferencing.

Committee Members Present: Curt Sears, Tom Roche, Tom Baron, John Deliso, Spyro Mitrokostas, George Perkins, Tom Durkin, and Lee Rowley (arrived at 4:15pm)

Staff: Karen Greene, Director of Community Development; Kathy Williams, Town Planner; Jeff Colby, DPW Director; Laurie Ruzala, Water and Wastewater Superintendent; Ed Senteio, Finance Director; Kyle Pedicini, Economic Development Coordinator; Dave Young and Kara Johnston from CDM Smith

1. DHY Status Update

Jeff Colby, DPW Director, provided an update on the status of the DHY (Dennis/Harwich/Yarmouth) Clean Waters Community Partnership. Mr. Colby stated that the Town of Dennis will not be placing the DHY article on their upcoming Town Meeting warrant, and are instead looking to place it on their fall Town Meeting warrant. The Town of Harwich has not placed the DHY article on an upcoming Town Meeting warrant.

Committee members discussed Yarmouth's status with the DHY Partnership. Some members expressed the belief that a regional partnership is still in the best interest of the Town of Yarmouth. One member also suggested that Yarmouth still place the DHY article on the upcoming Town Meeting warrant to be a regional leader on the issue. There was also discussion on possibly moving forward as only a Dennis/Yarmouth regional partnership since Harwich appears reluctant to join. Other members expressed the opinion that it is most important for the Town to position itself to be 'shovel-ready' for the project by the time the Federal Government starts awarding funding for infrastructure projects. Time is of the essence on this issue, so delayed a decision on a regional vs Yarmouth only solution would have negative impacts.

It was also noted that there is pending threat of litigation against the Town if Yarmouth does not achieve 'significant progress' with its wastewater planning. Dave Young, CDM Smith, noted that any lawsuit against the Town would prevent Yarmouth from being eligible to receive 0% interest loans for the project. Jeff Colby noted that it was his understanding that 'significant progress' meant actual sewer pipes being installed in the ground. Chairman Curt Sears also noted that the Town has a moral obligation to protect the health of its residents by pursuing clean water solutions. For all the aforementioned reasons, the committee agreed that urgency is needed to progress wastewater planning.

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The committee agreed to vote on a recommendation for a preferred route forward for the town (regional vs Yarmouth-only) at their next meeting next week.

2. Debt Service Payment Plan Discussion

Ed Senteio, Finance Director, presented an updated debt service financing plan for the wastewater projects. Revenue sources that will be used to fund the project were reviewed, and it was noted that there is a need to pre-fund the program by capturing surplus funding in the initial years of the program. Mr. Senteio emphasized that this was a rough roadmap and the town could face shortages in some areas and surpluses in others. In general, it was noted that this plan was conservative and that the Town is confident that no property tax impacts will be needed to pay for the program. Community outreach will be required as a part of this plan to ensure that betterment charges will be reasonable to users of the system.

3. Friends of Bass River Update

Bob Churchill and Erinn McCarty provided an update for the Friends of Bass River (FOBR). FOBR continues to work on completing water quality restoration in the Bass River. They are working with the Yarmouth DPW and Department of Conservation to discuss various issues in their proposed water restoration area. They are also working on securing funding for the next steps in their restoration project. A public unveiling of the project will take place in the early fall. Ms. McCarty also urged the Towns of Yarmouth and Dennis to work collaboratively on wastewater planning for the good of the Bass River, which is shared by both towns.

4. Public Outreach/Next Steps

Jeff Colby explained that the town is planning on sending out a mailer for Town Meeting Article(s) and a postcard explaining the ballot questions. It was noted that the committee will be asked to weigh in on the mailers and decide which segment of the Yarmouth population should be targeted with them.

5. Review of Past Meeting Minutes

Vote: On a motion from Spyro Mitrokostas, seconded by George Perkins, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021, by a vote of 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm