

**Source Water Protection
Ashland Advisory Committee**

**October 10, 2017
Water & Sewer Commission Office
9:30 am**

ATTENDEES

Mike Izard (Lakes Region Planning Commission)
Mardean Badger (Planning Board)
Eli Badger (Zoning Board of Adjustment)
Alan Cilley (Water & Sewer Commission)
Amanda Loud (Conservation Commission)
David Toth (Water & Sewer Commission)
Leigh Sharps (Planning Board; Board of Selectmen)
Charlie Smith (Town Administrator)

NOTES

- The notes from the Preliminary Information Session (9/19/17) were reviewed.
- At our preliminary meeting (9/19) we had discussed other areas that might be considered for additional protection measures, especially an identified alternate water source in the vicinity of Owl Brook. One Water and Sewer Commissioner recalled that the location of the alternate source might be in the middle of a private landowner's agricultural field. Additional information and discussion may be advisable in the future.
- Mike Izard's notes regarding "Review and Initial Discussion Key Findings" **[attached]** were shared and referenced throughout the meeting.
- It was the consensus of committee members that, going forward, we would concentrate on protective measures needed for the current well head and aquifer areas.
- The current well field was originally designated (via zoning) as an industrial area around 1996, but shortly thereafter the town established its new water supply in the same area. (The previous water supply was Jackson Pond in New Hampton).
- It was noted that a fence surrounds the pump building at the wellhead, but there is no fence that surrounds or defines the whole well field or any measured protective radius (e.g., 400 feet) around the wellhead.
- Both the NH DES documents and Emery & Garrett show the same delineation of the aquifer area.
- The NHDES assessment of the water supply was conducted between 1999-2002. The data has not been updated and is not available to the public, because it may contain errors/omissions and not be reflective of current conditions. Areas of high and

moderate vulnerabilities were identified in the report. Mike is attempting to access the data.

- Agriculture vulnerability within the aquifer area needs to be considered. Some land (town-owned and privately owned) within the aquifer is used for haying.
- In addition to paved and unpaved roads that are within the aquifer area, there is also a railroad, the proposed Northern Pass route, a manufacturing plant and a variety of other businesses.
- The Ashland water supply has a high level of salt, but not at crisis levels. The Water and Sewer Commission has had ongoing discussions with NH DOT in reference to salt use on nearby roads (I-93 and Route 3). The NH DOT has decreased its use of salt on the roadways and has done extensive re-design of drainage around the I-93 ramps.
- Other impervious surfaces in the area that are maintained by private owners or contractors also need to be included in the discussion.
- There are 20 monitoring stations within the well field and aquifer areas. The Water and Sewer Commission contracts with Emery and Garrett to conduct tests for a wide range of substances in the water supply. Some substances are tested for yearly and some every two years.
- The Water and Sewer department is allowed (by NH DES) to pump up to 1 million gallons per day from the aquifer. The actual current pumping rate is approximately 250,000 gallons per day. The department has one water tower (capacity 1 million gallons) and is considering a second tower.
- Because the aquifer extends across the Pemigewasset River into Bridgewater, it may be advisable to contact Bridgewater for discussion. Property uses across the river include forest cover, residential and agricultural.
- **Additional Tasks**
 - Water service area -- location and extent of water lines; number of customers served, etc.
 - Identify lots/parcels within the aquifer area – lots, owners, zoning districts, uses of properties, amount of impervious surfaces, etc.
 - Outreach to Bridgewater
 - The descriptive delineation of the zoning areas in the Ashland Zoning Ordinance does not include all the descriptive language contained in the 2002 document (Zoning Districts). This issue should be addressed by the Planning Board for correction.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

The next meeting of the Committee will be Tuesday, October 24, 2017, at 9:30am in the Water and Sewer Commission Office (6 Collins Street).